

The Breeding Program Rules of Procedure of the Belgian Blue Cattle Breeding Society of Ireland Ltd

1. The Herd Book of the Society shall include:

- a) Particulars of the pedigree and performance of pedigree Belgian Blue Cattle.
- b) Such other information as the Council of the Society may from time to time decide.

2. Breed Character A long large bodied animal with fine bones, double muscle, sloping rump with hidden hips, strong legs and correct mouth. Coat colour can be black or blue and white, or blue, or white or any other combination of colours that are acceptable to the Council.

3. Breeding Objective: To produce a large round bodied functional double muscled Belgian Blue Animal.

4. To qualify for entry in the Main Section of the herd book an animal shall:

- a) Be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the main section of an EU approved Belgian Blue Herdbook or any other Belgian Blue Society Herdbook outside the EU where they are entered or registered in a herdbook or register kept by an authority listed in the Annex of Commission Decision 2006/139
- b) Be identified at birth according to the rules of the IBBCS Herdbook
- c) Have a pedigree established in accordance with the IBBCS Herdbook

All sires used for Pedigree Breeding must have DNA profile with Weatherbys Ireland, the onus is with the collector/ and or the distributor of Artificial Semen to provide this.

In the case of Stock Bulls they must have a DNA profile and the onus rests with the breeder to ensure that a DNA profile is recorded in Weatherby's.

The following procedure must be followed to have Pedigree Belgian Blue cattle in the main section of the herd book.

Pedigree Registration Process

- Register animal with the Dept of Agriculture, the animal must be named at the time of registration. (this feeds into the ICBF data base)
- The Embryo calf will require to be Genotyped / DNA tested.
- The pedigree Cert will be processed at this stage.
- The Pedigree Certificate will then be sent to the breeder on payment of fees.

5. Registration can only take place in Registered Breeders herd I, i.e it is not permissible to register calves to a non-member

6. The entry of every animal in the Society's herd book must be tendered for registration by the breeder of such animal. An exception to this is in the case of an animal imported into Ireland in which case the animal will be registered by the importer. For these purposes, the breeder of the animal shall mean the bonafide owner (being a member of the Society) of the dam of such animal at the time of birth of the animal in question, either alone or jointly with partner(s) or other person(s).

7. Registrations: All animals are registered in the Irish Belgian Blue Society through the Animal Events operated by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) requirement for members of the Society to join the Animal Events system in order to register cattle with the Society. Fees for the registration of an animal should be paid to the Secretary of the Society upon receipt of Invoice from Society

All Artificial Insemination (AI) Events must be notified through the Animal Events system.

Where AI technicians are not using handhelds, breeders are required to submit copies of AI dockets as evidence of insemination. These dockets will be retained on file.

Breeders who are eligible to carry out DIY must have current approval for the herd by the Department of Agriculture. A copy of the licence must be forwarded to the Society. The onus is on the breeder to ensure they comply with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

Breeders using the DIY method of AI will receive random checks in relation to

- Progeny Parentage
- Request of proof of purchase of semen

All animals born by Embryo Transfer must be DNA typed to confirm parentage before registration.

A Genomic / DNA sample must be submitted to ICBF/Weatherby's.

- Male animals must be sire verified and dam verified.
- ET animals must be sire and dam verified.
- Please contact the society if you require a DNA kit.

Random DNA checks on other animals e.g. natural born (calves born from their natural mother). This will be carried out on every 20th calf in this category. This DNA (Genomic) test kit will be despatched by ICBF to the breeder.

Pedigree Stock Bulls used to sire Pedigree calves must be DNA parentage verified to the sire and the dam if she has been DNA/ Genomic tested.

The Council may refuse to accept entries for registration in the Herd Book from Any member who fails to observe or perform any of the provisions of the herd book rules. The Council may at any time cancel the entry of any animal in the herd book, Which shall be found to contain any false or inaccurate particular or statement given or made to the Society. On the cancellation of the entry of any animal in the Herd book, the certificate of Registration issued by the Society will be cancelled and any fees paid to the Society shall be retained by the Society

8. Inspections The Linear scoring facility has now been discontinued and has been replaced by Whole Herd Health Performance Recording, however while not obligatory it is advisable

9. Imports: All semen imported must be imported according to the legislative requirements Imported animals must be notified to the Society by the herd book from which the imported animal originated.

10. System of identifying animals

- a. All animals shall be identified using the National Identification number.
- b. Every member who registers an animal in the Society's herd book must register an approved herd prefix which shall be applicable to all animal and registered by that member either alone or jointly with any partner(s) or other person(s) in any one herd.
- c. A Prefix shall consist of approved word(s) and the members shall pay a fee for registration there of.
- d. A prefix that has been used by a member, may not subsequently be used by another member, except where a herd is taken over by the representative of the family or the previous owner of such a herd, otherwise, no prefix may be transferred from one member or herd to another unless special permission of the Council of the Society is obtained.
- e. In addition to the herd prefix, each animal must have a name, which shall have, as first letter year designation letter as specified by the Council of the Society of the year in which the animal is born. For the purpose the year shall begin on the 1st January.

11. Transfer of Ownership: Members shall inform the Society of the sale of any of their registered or notified Cattle (i.e. cattle of which the births have been officially notified through the Animal Events system but who whose registration is pending). Every member shall Complete the transfer form on the registration certificate and forward this to the Society for noting and onward transmission to the new owner.

12. Society Fees and Fines. The Society may from time to time set or make changes in the fees or penalties charged i.e. for membership, prefix registration, late notification penalties, embryo Registration, and transfer of ownership and any other current fees in force.

13. Should any question arise concerning the meaning, interpretation or application of these rules, the decision of the Council shall be final and binding.

14. Embryo Transfers

- a. The technique of embryo transfer (ET) is now well established and if properly used, presents a tool for genuine breed improvement. The selection of a cow for ET is a breeder's own choice and his/her decision can have far reaching effects, not only his/her own herd but also in the National Herd as a whole. It is imperative, therefore that breeders using ET employ the very highest of Standards in their selection criteria and maintain at all times the Belgian Blue Standard of excellence.
- b. No calf born by ET will be registered in the herd book unless all the condition of these regulations have been fully satisfied.
- c. Members intending to use ET should contact the Secretary of the Society to obtain information on the and administrative procedures that must be followed.
- d. Donor Cows
 - must be registered in an approved Belgian Blue herd.
 - All donor cows must be DNA typed to facilitate the parentage testing of the ET- progeny.
- e. Recipient cows must be identified by the National ID number.
- f. A DNA profile is required for imported embryos. The importation of embryos must be notified to the Society by the country of origin of the imported embryo.

g . Each embryo which is either frozen or implanted is to be registered with the Society by the Embryo Transplant Unit on behalf of the owner of the dam by the submission of the following.

- A Belgian Blue Embryo Registration form completed and signed by the Veterinary officer who carried out the flushing (up to 16 embryos may be recorded on each form.
- A relevant A.I. certificate or signed certificate of service.

h. The Embryo Registration form is to arrive at the Registered Office of The Belgian Blue Society within 14 days of the embryo(s) being flushed. Thereafter a late registration fee will be payable for each period for 30 days or part thereof that any Embryo Registration Form is received beyond the aforementioned 14 days.

I. A copy of the Embryo Registration Form is to be retained by the owner of the Donor dam (the breeders copy) until submitted to the Belgian Blue Society when the resultant calf is registered. A further copy of the Embryo Registration Form is to be retained for record purposes by the Embryo Transfer Unit, which carried out the flushing.

J. Embryo Transfer calves are registered as for other calves, with exception that all ET calves must be DNA typed.

k. Reporting changes or circumstances

➤ The Society is to be informed of the following changes as soon as they occur

1. In the case of frozen embryo

- Transfer of ownership.
- Embryo thawed and implanted.
- Embryo destroyed

2. In the case of recipient dam:

- Transfer of ownership or destruction

3. In the case of ET calf:

- Loss of calf if this occurs any time prior to Registration

(These details are required for record purposes only).

➤ Changes of circumstances are to be notified on an Embryo Amendment Form, copies of which are supplied by the ET unit

➤ In the event of a frozen embryo or recipient dam being sold, a copy of the relevant Embryo Registration Form will be sent to the new owner by the Society on being notified of all the details are required in part (ii) above.

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

16. The Society reserve the right to inspect every 15th calf born, The inspection can be carried out by the ICBF scorer and / or a council member. The calf and all pedigree calves must be in a yard with facilities to weigh.

17. Deregistration of Animals. The Society offers the voluntary deregistration of pedigree animals under 12 months, a credit will be made to the account of the breeder.

If this process is reversed at a later stage the following criteria will apply

- Late registration fees to be paid.
- A letter of confirmation from the breeder stating that he agrees and the animal is suitable for Pedigree breeding
- The animal is parentage verified by DNA/Genomic test.

18. The Council reserves the right to amend or change the rules.

19. Appeals procedure

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 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 the 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 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 of 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 30 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 apportionment 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.