



RULES OF THE  
JERSEY HERD BOOK



## Principles of the Jersey Herd Book

The Jersey Herd Book was established on the 3rd March 1866 and as such was the first register of Jersey cattle in the world. Since that time the Jersey Herd Book has maintained the registry of all pedigree Jersey cattle born in the Island of Jersey.

The registration of Jersey cattle is strictly controlled within the rules of the Jersey Herd Book and continued through similar herd books in countries to which the Jersey cow has been exported.

The Jersey Herd Book records comprehensive information about each individual animal and the development of the breed as a whole. It allows members of the Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society to notify births, deaths, sales and other information about their pedigree cattle. It is recognised as the source reference on the Jersey breed in the Island of Jersey and the only such standard register.

The work of developing and improving the Jersey breed has been one of the main objects of the Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society since its foundation in 1833 and the basis of this is the reliability of cattle identification and recording.

The principles of the Jersey Herd Book are:-

- **Integrity** in the declaration of events and information.
- **Accuracy** in the recording of information relating to the Jersey breed in the Island of Jersey.
- **Traceability** in recognising that pedigree breeding results in the greatest improvement of cattle.

It is the duty of the Agricultural Department Council of the RJA&HS to ensure the principles of the Jersey Herd Book are upheld.

Rules of the  
**JERSEY HERD BOOK**  
as held by the

Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society

Amended and approved by the Council of the Agricultural Department 30th January 2008

Contents	Page
Principles of the Jersey Herd Book	Inside front cover
<b>Use of the Jersey Herd Book</b>	
1. Qualification of membership	2
2. Jersey Herd Book fees and fines	2
3. Irregularities in Jersey Herd Book transactions	2
<b>Registrations in the Jersey Herd Book</b>	
4. Eligibility for pedigree entry into the Jersey Herd Book	2
5. Eligibility for foundation entry into the Jersey Herd Book	3
6. Procedure for registration and reporting of calvings	3
7. Naming of animals	3
8. Registration of Prefixes and Affixes	3
9. Transfer of ownership	4
10. Export Certificates	4
11. Recording the death of registered animals	4
12. Recording of other information	4
13. Registration Certificates and Pedigrees	4
14. Information contained within the Jersey Herd Book	5
<b>Classification, linear assessment and licensing procedures</b>	
15. Classification and linear assessment of female animals	5
16. Licensing procedures of pedigree registered male animals born in the Island of Jersey and their use for breeding purposes	6
17. Licensing procedures for the use of pedigree registered male animals through imported semen	7
18. Classification of pedigree registered male animals born in the Island of Jersey and kept for breeding purposes	7
<b>Embryo Transfer in Cattle</b>	
19. Embryo Transfer	8

## **USE OF THE JERSEY HERD BOOK**

### **1. Qualification of membership**

- 1.1. Only persons who are fully paid up members of the Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society (hereafter referred to as the RJA&HS) are entitled to receive the full services of, and carry out transactions with, the Jersey Herd Book (hereafter referred to as the JHB).
- 1.2. All persons keeping cattle in Jersey are required by Jersey Law to register with the Jersey Cattle Movement Service (hereafter referred to as the JCMS) and to comply with the statutory requirements relating to cattle identification. Information required by the JCMS is held annexed to the JHB. Advice on this is available from the office of the RJA&HS.

### **2. Jersey Herd Book fees and fines**

- 2.1. Fees for the registration of calves and any other services offered by the JHB shall from time to time be set by the Agricultural Department Council of the RJA&HS (hereafter referred to as the Council). Details of these shall be issued to members either annually or when amended.
- 2.2. Fines applied to the registration of calves and any other services offered by the JHB when in contravention of these rules shall from time to time be set by the Council. Details of these shall be issued to members either annually or when amended.
- 2.3. Fees must be paid when due and fines paid immediately on being imposed.

### **3. Irregularities in Jersey Herd Book transactions**

- 3.1. The Council regards the integrity of the JHB as a matter of the utmost importance and any person found to be attempting to defeat the principles of the JHB shall be denied privileges of use.
- 3.2. All returns and details declared on JHB transactions are received subject to their being found to be correct. If, on verification, the returns do not comply with the rules or contain irregularities, the owner may, at the discretion of the Council, be fined or deprived of the privileges of the JHB until such details are corrected.
- 3.3. Failure to comply with any of the rules of the JHB may result in the facilities of the JHB being withdrawn.

## **REGISTRATIONS IN THE JERSEY HERD BOOK**

### **4. Eligibility for pedigree entry into the Jersey Herd Book**

- 4.1. No animal bred and born in Jersey shall be pedigree registered in the JHB unless it is the progeny of a sire and dam also recorded in the JHB.
- 4.2. All male and female animals to be registered must be the progeny of a dam born in the Island of Jersey and permanently identified according to the rules of the JCMS.
- 4.3. All bulls born in the Island of Jersey, retained for breeding, must be registered and shall be subject to the specific registration requirements and licensing procedure detailed later in these rules.
- 4.4. Bulls not born in the Island of Jersey may be admitted into the JHB and licensed for use, through imported semen, provided that they meet the following specific criteria, and the licensing procedure detailed later in these rules:

- 4.4.1. Such bulls shall be at least a seventh generation pure bred and registered Jersey animal recorded in a recognised Jersey herd book, or other such official registry.
- 4.4.2. Such bulls shall have no known ancestors of any other breed.

**5. Eligibility for foundation entry into the Jersey Herd Book**

- 5.1. A female calf where either or both parents are unknown, or unproven following DNA analysis, may be eligible for foundation entry into the JHB.
- 5.2. The Council may request inspection of this animal by a nominee to confirm its suitability for registration as being of true Jersey type.
- 5.3. Progeny of such animals shall obtain full pedigree status after a further three generations of registration.

**6. Procedure for registration and reporting of calvings**

- 6.1. A registration shall be accepted on receipt at the offices of the RJA&HS of a duly completed Birth Card, within seven days of the birth of the animal and subject to the details found to be correct. A Registration Certificate for the calf will be issued to the person recorded as being the current keeper within fourteen days of receipt of the Birth Card.
- 6.2. For calvings where no calf is to be registered and on receipt of details from a suitable farm management or recording programme such event will be entered into the JHB database.
- 6.3. Where particulars supplied are found to be incorrect they will be amended and the owner or keeper of the animal advised.
- 6.4. An updated Dam Fact Sheet will be issued to the keeper when requested.

**7. Naming of animals**

- 7.1. No two animals shall be registered with the same name.
- 7.2. Names shall be refused if they are deemed to be inappropriate or likely to be misleading in relation to sex, origin or relationship.
- 7.3. Names shall be refused which exceed thirty letters and numerals in length or include apostrophes due to the incompatibility of such with computer software programs.
- 7.4. The names of animals already in the JHB cannot be altered, unless where legitimate error or duplication in the original naming of the animal is brought to the attention of the office and, where appropriate, such amendment is approved by the Council.
- 7.5. In any event animals bearing a registered prefix or affix may not be changed without permission of the breeder.

**8. Registration of Prefixes and Affixes**

- 8.1. Members may register a herd or cow family prefix or affix for their exclusive use in the naming of calves bred by them or those that have their permission.
- 8.2. The registration of a prefix or affix shall be subject to the approval of the Council, who will not approve a prefix or affix which, in their opinion, is inappropriate or misleading.
- 8.3. By special Resolution of the Council, the prefix "Windsor" and affix "of Windsor" are reserved for the sole use of Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of the Society.
- 8.4. The Council reserves the right to revoke the registration of a prefix or affix should they consider it to be misused.
- 8.5. The Society will maintain a list of registered prefixes and affixes and letters of authority for use by other individuals where granted.

## **9. Transfer of ownership**

- 9.1. The transfer of ownership of any animal must be reported to the offices of the RJA&HS within seven days of the date of purchase to be recorded within the JHB.
- 9.2. Regardless as to whether the animal moves holding the current or new keeper must present, at the office, the Registration Certificate of the animal to be transferred duly completed by the vendor and purchaser.
- 9.3. A transfer fee will be charged to the purchaser. Fees shall be charged according to the following scale: transfer of one to ten animals at any one time shall be subject to full fees, when eleven to twenty animals are transferred at any one time the total fee shall be reduced by 25%, when more than twenty animals are transferred at one time the total transfer fee shall be reduced by 50%.
- 9.4. In the case of the death of an owner of animals registered in the JHB, all registration certificates should be returned to the office by the keeper, or his agent, within seven days. The animals shall be transferred into the estate of the legatee until such time as the office is advised of the beneficiary to whom the transfer of ownership shall ultimately be recorded. No charge will be made for these transfers.

## **10. Export Certificates**

- 10.1. Export Certificates will be produced on request for an animal to be exported to enable entry into an official pedigree register in the country of destination.
- 10.2. The fees for Export Certificates shall be payable by the purchaser or their exporting agent.
- 10.3. No Export Certificate to enable entry into an official pedigree register shall be issued for any pedigree bull unless it has been previously DNA tested to prove parentage.

## **11. Recording the death of registered animals**

- 11.1. The death of a registered animal shall be recorded in the JHB from information passed to the JCMS as a requirement of the cattle identification legislation under which it is the legal responsibility of the last keeper to report such an event.

## **12. Recording of other information**

- 12.1. The JHB reserves the right to request that any animal is DNA tested for proof of parentage. Where this is done to benefit the authenticity of the JHB the Council will incur the costs of the DNA testing. Where any person is found to have incorrectly declared the parentage of any animal they will be liable for such costs and registration may be withdrawn.
- 12.2. Birth of twin calves shall be so declared on the Birth Card with the sex or sexes of such twins being clearly stated and in addition whether or not either is intended for registration.
- 12.3. Birth of deformed calves should be declared to the office.

## **13. Registration Certificates and Pedigrees**

- 13.1. All Registration Certificates, whether duplicate or not, are official documents and must not be altered in any way.
- 13.2. The Registration Certificate also acts as the animal's 'passport' for the purposes of the JCMS and therefore the current original document must always be held by the keeper of the animal. Only one copy of the Registration Certificate should ever be issued at any time, however in exceptional circumstances, duplicate Registration Certificates for JCMS purposes only, may be issued.

- 13.3. The Registration Certificate will contain all the necessary statutory information and any additional information as deemed appropriate by the Council.
- 13.4. An animal's pedigree, genetic information and any further show and prize details may be issued, but not on the official pre-printed documentation. The Council will recognize all major awards that are attained at Island shows and competitions and these will be entered into the JHB database.

#### **14. Information contained within the Jersey Herd Book**

- 14.1. The copyright of information contained within the JHB remains the property of the RJA&HS.
- 14.2. Printed volumes of the JHB, containing the details of registered stock may be published when appropriate.
- 14.3. Research and provision of information may be undertaken by the office upon request for which a charge may be made according to the time involved.

### **CLASSIFICATION, LINEAR ASSESSMENT AND LICENSING PROCEDURES**

#### **15. Classification and linear assessment of female animals**

- 15.1. All animals shall be presented for inspection according to the linear assessment and classification guidelines, advice on which can be obtained from the office of the RJA&HS.
- 15.2. Animals shall be subject to a compulsory linear assessment and classification during their first lactation. Any animal may be re-inspected and scored after its second calf and thereafter during any lactation. There is no obligation for keepers or owners to have animals other than those in their first lactation inspected. First lactation inspections are free. The Council will set fees as appropriate for any subsequent inspections.
- 15.3. Every attempt will be made to ensure that animals will be linear assessed and classified during the first seven months of lactation. Dry cows will not be examined.
- 15.4. The RJA&HS office shall notify keepers of the time and date of the linear assessment or classification visits of their herds, which shall be arranged at suitable intervals according to herd size and the number of animals to be presented.
- 15.5. The current classification rating will supersede the previous rating, but will not be lowered.
- 15.6. An animal may be exempt from linear assessment or classification where the classifier accepts that the score the animal would receive on that day would be inappropriate.
- 15.7. An overall classification score of "90" points or over may only be awarded after an animal's third calf. Cows may be awarded "Excellent" scores over multiple inspections. The cow retains the highest "Excellent" score and the number of "Excellent" scores is also noted.
- 15.8. Cows which have produced 40,000 kilograms of milk with a total of 3,500 kilograms of combined butterfat and protein in up to eight consecutive lactations of 305 days, or less, shall be eligible for a rating of "Supreme Excellent" awarded for production and conformation. Such animals must score a minimum of "90" points on the date of inspection.
- 15.9. Hereditary defects will be reflected in the points awarded, noted on the form and pointed out to the keeper or owner at the time. Such hereditary defects found in linear assessment or classification will be noted on registration forms as follows:
  - "US" meaning Undershot Jaw
  - "OS" meaning Overshot Jaw
  - "TF" meaning Twisted Face

- 15.10. Keepers or owners may ask for a special linear assessment or classification visit outside the date allocated to them on payment of a special fee. The person requesting such a visit will also be liable for all associated costs.
- 15.11. Appeals against any linear assessment or classification rating must be received in writing at the RJA&HS office within fifteen days from the time the keeper of the animal is notified of the official rating. Having received the appeal the Council may appoint two persons to review the animals score. On their advice, the Council can request the animal is re-inspected at the next classification visit. The person seeking an appeal may be charged a fee as agreed by the Council.

**16. Licensing procedures of pedigree registered male animals born in the Island of Jersey and their use for breeding purposes.**

- 16.1. A bull may not be used for breeding by natural service or have any semen collected for use by artificial insemination until a Service Licence has been issued by the RJA&HS office. The Office must be advised, with a minimum of two weeks notice, when a bull is required to be licensed.
- 16.2. No progeny of a bull will be registered unless the bull is licensed for use.
- 16.3. A bull will not be licensed for use until he is at least twelve months old and deemed to be of sufficient size and maturity for his age. This fact will be taken into consideration by the licensers before a licence is issued.
- 16.4. Prior to the issuing of a license for use the bull will be thoroughly examined to ensure the following:
  - 16.4.1. Locomotion: the bull should have good legs and feet. Sickie hocks or bowed pasterns will be noted. Other blemishes will be noted which do not interfere with usefulness, for example a scar resulting from an accident or a "bumped knee".
  - 16.4.2. Digestive System: the incisor teeth should make proper contact with the dental pad of the upper jaw. The presence of any of the following undesirable hereditary defects will result in the bull not being licensed:
    - 16.4.2.1. Brachygnathia or undershot jaw, also known as parrot mouth, or shortened lower jaw. In this condition the upper jaw projects beyond the lower jaw and the incisors are situated posterior to the dental pad.
    - 16.4.2.2. Prognathia or overshot jaw. In this condition the incisors are anterior to the dental pad.
    - 16.4.2.3. Twisted Face. This is a condition that can develop as an animal matures where the muzzle is not horizontally parallel to the eyes. A deviation can be measured in the alignment of the central line of the muzzle to the centre of the incisor teeth.
    - 16.4.2.4. Umbilical Hernia. This is a defect of the muscles around the Umbilical which fail to close at birth. The hernia may contain intestine and result in bowel obstruction.
  - 16.4.3. Genitals: Both testicles should be of approximately even size and situated in the scrotum.
  - 16.4.4. Vision: It must be proved that a bull has good vision, but if the examiners suspect the possibility of a visionary defect, a veterinary surgeon will be asked to examine the eyes.



- 16.5. Prior to the issuing of a license for use, the dam and the maternal grand dam of the bull will be checked to ensure the following:
- 16.5.1. That the dam of the bull should not have had noted at any previous classification any defined hereditary defect or have produced a mummified calf and that the condition regarding eyes is the same as for the bull.
  - 16.5.2. That the maternal grand-dam of the bull must fulfill the same conditions as the dam.
- 16.6. In the case of a male whose dam, sire, grand-dams or grandsires have a defined hereditary defect (see the above rule), a licence for use will not be issued.
- 16.7. In the case of the registration of a pedigree bull calf intended for breeding, the calf, its dam and its sire must be DNA tested to prove parentage before the animal is eligible to be licensed for use. It is essential that the dam has hairs collected for DNA testing at the earliest opportunity as if she dies before parentage is DNA proven the young bull can not be licensed.
- 16.8. The owner or keeper, or their agent, of a licensed bull shall ensure that a correct record of all animals which have been bred through natural service by that bull is maintained. This record must be produced on request.

**17. Licensing procedures for the use of pedigree registered male animals through imported semen**

- 17.1. A bull may not be used for breeding, through imported semen, until a Service Licence has been issued by the RJA&HS office.
- 17.2. A licence to use imported semen will only be granted if the donor bull is first admitted into the JHB.
- 17.3. A licence will not be issued if the bull from which semen is imported is recorded as exhibiting any of the hereditary defects detailed in the rules on licensing bulls born in the Island of Jersey.
- 17.4. The importer, or his agent, must supply the JHB with the official seven generation pedigree necessary to admit the bull into the JHB and a certificate from the official registry of the country of origin that the bull has no known ancestor of any other breed.
- 17.5. The importer, or his agent, shall supply the JHB with the DNA certificate of the donor bull and a random sample of imported semen will be DNA tested to verify that it was supplied by the donor bull so recorded.

**18. Classification of pedigree registered male animals born in the Island of Jersey and kept for breeding purposes**

- 18.1. Bulls licensed for use will be classified after two years of age and the office will inform the keeper of the date intended for classification.
- 18.2. The bull will be re-examined for hereditary defects. If none are found, he will be given a score and rating of "Excellent", "Very Good", "Good Plus", "Good", "Fair" or "Poor" and his licence will be continued.
- 18.3. If a hereditary defect is found the licence for use will be revoked immediately.
- 18.4. Appeals against a refused licence or classification rating must be received in writing at the office within fifteen days from the time the keeper or breeder is notified of the official rating by the office. Having received the appeal, the Council shall appoint two persons to inspect the animal in question with a view to authorising a further inspection by the Licenser or

Classifier. The owner of the animal will be advised if a fee is to be charged for the appeal inspection. No progeny will be registered as pedigree until any appeal is confirmed as successful.

- 18.5. Any defects which are not at presently regarded as being hereditary will be entered on the Certificate of Examination. This is one way of identifying conditions which might eventually be found to be hereditary in nature.

## **EMBRYO TRANSFER IN CATTLE**

### **19. Embryo Transfer**

- 19.1. The collection and transfer of embryos shall be carried out in Jersey by an approved operator (hereafter referred to as the operator). An Embryo Register will be maintained by the RJA&HS and all embryos and embryo transactions will be recorded within this register.
- 19.2. Upon each collection of embryos, an Embryo Collection Certificate (Form ETJ1) must be fully completed in triplicate by the Operator, one copy to be retained by the Operator, one to be retained by the owner of the donor female and one to be sent to the RJA&HS within fourteen days by the owner of the donor female.
- 19.3. At the time of the transfer of embryos to recipient females, an Embryo Transfer Certificate (ETJ3) must be completed in triplicate, one copy to be sent to the RJA&HS within fourteen days, one copy to the owner of the recipient female and one copy to the owner of the transferred embryo.
- 19.4. If the donor female was artificially inseminated or served naturally, a copy of the relevant insemination or record of service must accompany the Embryo Collection Certificate.
- 19.5. DNA typing of Parentage Stock:
- 19.5.1. If the donor female is not already DNA typed, its owner must ensure that a hair sample is taken at the time of flushing and subsequently DNA typed.
- 19.5.2. Any bulls or semen from any bulls, used for service in embryo transfer must first be licensed for use by the JHB.
- 19.5.3. Should an owner wish to use more than one sire on the donor cow, this must be notified to the RJA&HS and confirmed as to whether or not resulting progeny can be identified as being from the individual sires concerned. Confirmation, in writing, must be received at the RJA&HS at least one week before the inseminations are due to be undertaken.
- 19.5.4. No more than two sires shall be used in the cocktail of semen.
- 19.5.5. All costs of DNA typing are to be the responsibility of the owner of the donor female.
- 19.5.6. A calf born as a result of a cocktail of semen used in embryo transfer must be parentage checked by DNA testing. The owner of the resulting calf is responsible for collecting hair samples, submitting them to the RJA&HS for analysis by the time it attains five months and be responsible for any associated costs incurred. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of the parentage recorded on the registration certificate. All existing rules of registration of calves will apply.
- 19.5.7. A calf born as a result of embryo transfer with just a single potential sire may be parentage checked by DNA typing when requested to do so by the Council.
- 19.5.8. If at one and the same time more than one embryo is transferred to a recipient, those embryos must be from one and the same collection.

196. The registered owner of the embryo will be the breeder of the resulting calf.
197. If an embryo is sold or transferred to other ownership by the owner of the donor female, either unfrozen, frozen or in a recipient female (even if the recipient female remains the property of the breeder), an Embryo Change of Ownership Form (ETJ2) must be completed in triplicate and sent to the RJA&HS within seven days of the transaction taking place.
198. The member notifying the birth of a calf resulting from an embryo transfer must ring the letters "ET" (meaning Embryo Transfer) as shown on the Birth Card. "ET" will be inserted after the name of the calf.



**Royal Jersey Agricultural & Horticultural Society**

Royal Jersey Showground, La Route de la Trinite,

Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands JE3 5JP

Tel: +44 (0) 1534 866555

Fax: +44 (0) 1534 865619

Email: [society@royaljersey.co.uk](mailto:society@royaljersey.co.uk)

[www.royaljersey.co.uk](http://www.royaljersey.co.uk)