

Montbeliarde Cattle Society of Ireland  
Breeding Programme  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Contents.....	Page
1)The aim of the breeding programme.....	2
2)Name of the Breed.....	2
3)Breed Characteristics.....	2
4)Geographical territories.....	2
5)System of Identification of Animals in the Herd book.....	2
6)Registration of Animals and Recording of Pedigrees.....	2
7)Urgrading.....	3
8)Procedures for registering and animal in the breeding book.....	4
9)Embryo collection registration.....	4
10)Controls.....	5
11)Imports.....	5
12)System for Recording Pedigree of Purebred Breeding Animals...	5
13)Selection and Breeding objectives of the breeding programme.	5
14)Performance Testing or Genetic Evaluation.....	6
15)Outsourcing of technical activities.....	6
16)Authorised Derogations.....	6
17)Zootechnical Certificate.....	6

### **(1) The aim of the breeding programme**

To improve the breed, by strictly adhering to the breeding programme and maintaining its main characteristics; the ability to function as a dual-purpose animal while continuing to improve dairy abilities, longevity, reduced cell count and keeping beefing ability, also to have a breeding objective of obtaining a calf per year.

### **(2) Name of the Breed**

The name of the breed shall remain and only be Montbeliarde

### **(3) Breed Characteristics**

A Montbeliarde shall be in general a large docile animal. They are red and white in colour with a full white or mainly white head standing on strong legs and have a correct mouth. A Montbeliarde coat may vary slightly to fawn and white but not any more than this. As a breed they will strive to function as a dual purpose animal by maintaining their beefing ability and higher protein percentage in milk output.

### **(4) Geographical Territory**

The Montbeliarde Cattle Society will keep a herd book for animals residing on the island of Ireland.

### **(5) System of Identification of Animals in the Herd book**

- a) Each animal to be identified by the herd identification number under the National Identification and Registration System for Bovine animals.
- b) Each animal must be named at registration, which will consist of the herd prefix and animal name. The first letter in each animal's name shall be the year designation letter, as specified by the Council of the Society, for the year of birth of the animal.
- d) Prefix and animals name will not exceed 30 characters including spaces.
- e) The Council reserves the right to refuse the notification of birth of a calf where the data provided is deemed to be deficient or inaccurate.
- g) Should any queries arise concerning the meaning, interpretation or application of any of these by-laws, the decision of the Board shall be binding.

### **6) Registration of Animals and Recording of Pedigrees**

The Herd Book will be divided into two sections: Main Section for male and female animals and a Supplementary Section for female animals only.

For entry in the main section of the herd book an animal shall:

- a) The animal shall have descended from parents and grandparents which have been entered in the main section of a breeding book of the same breed
- b) Be identified at birth according to Union animal health law on the identification and registration of bovines and the rules of this breeding programme

- c) Have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules set out in this breeding programme
- d) Be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate in the case of trade in or entry into the union of an animal and where that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book.
- e) Be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate where an animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded, or which entered into the union and where that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book.

The main section of the herd book shall be divided in to two classes:

**Class 1** – animals in this class are sired by progeny tested sires with a coefficient of reliability of at least 50% for the main production traits, according to ICAR principles, in the country of their origin. These production traits are defined as a dairy animal with good milk and solid traits with a beefing ability.

**Class 2** – animals in this class are sired by bulls other than those identified in Class 1 and will also include animals with any undesirable breed characteristics, e.g. animals that are black and white in colour.

To qualify for recording in the supplementary section of the herd book a female animal shall be

- a) Identified in accordance with Union animal health law on the identification and registration of bovines.
- b) Be judged to conform to the breed standard, which will be checked through visual assessment
- c) Meet the minimum performance requirements as outlines below for each section.

The supplementary section is divided into two sections: Section A & B

a) Females in Section A shall have the letters 'ASR' written after their name on their certificates.

b) To qualify for recording in Section B of the Supplementary Section of the Herd book an animal shall:

- Be a female whose Dam is registered in Section A of the Supplementary Section of the herd book, and whose sire is registered in the main section of the herd book or in another EU approved herd book of the Montbeliarde Breed.

Females in this section shall have the letters 'BSR' written after their name on their certificates.

## 7) Upgrading

To qualify for upgrading to the Supplementary section of the Herd book an animal shall:

- be a female whose dam (Section B) and maternal grand dam (Section A) are recorded in a supplementary section of the herd book and whose sire and two grand sire are entered in the main section of the breeding book or of another EU approved breeding book of the breed shall be eligible for entry in the main section of the herd book.

### **8) Procedures for registering an animal in the breeding book**

Animals born in the Republic of Ireland must be registered through the ICBF animal events book or electronically through the Departments on-line service [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie). An animal is considered as being requested for to enter the breeding book where a Pedigree name is entered at registration. The fees charged will be as per schedule of fees, which can be requested from the Herdbook Secretary. Late registration is defined as an animal being named 27 days after birth. Inspections shall be carried out where irregularities in herd registrations have been highlighted by random DNA testing. Where irregularities arise from a random DNA test the society may carry out further DNA testing. Where inspection is required an inspection fee will be charged to the breeder.

### **9) Embryo Collection Registration**

a) The embryo registration form ET1 together with the prescribed fee should arrive at the Herd book Manager's office of the society within 21 days of the embryos being collected. Thereafter a late registration fee will be payable for each period of 30 days or part thereof that an Embryo Registration Form is received beyond the aforementioned 21 days as per schedule of fees.

b) A Breeders copy of the ET1 form shall be retained by the owner of the embryo until submitted with the Birth Registration. The approved embryo collection team will retain the collection unit's copy.

c) The society is to be informed of the following changes are seen as they occur

1. Transfer of ownership of the frozen embryo.
2. Embryo thawed and implanted.
3. Embryo destroyed
4. Transfer of ownership or destruction of the recipient dam.
5. Loss of the ET calf if it occurs at 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 ET2, copies of which are supplied to ET units.

d) In the event of a frozen embryo or recipient dam being sold a copy of the relevant embryo registration form, ET1 should be given to the new owner by the breeder to assist him or her in the registration of the calf.

e) In the case of calves being born as the result of embryo transfer both the donor sire and dam must be blood/DNA typed. All donor sires must have undergone genetic evaluation and donor females undergone genetic evaluation or performance testing.

f) All calves born from ETA are required to be parentage tested for sire and dam

g) All ETA registration and amendment forms are available from the herd book manager on request.

h) Where donors are entered in another breeding book for the breed, all embryos must be accompanied by the appropriate zootechnical certificate issued by an authorized body and

submitted with the request for registration of the offspring in the breeding book.

i) Breeder should follow the procedure for entering the offspring in the breeding book as outlined above for registering an animal. The Animal Events record should show the natural dam on the first line and the number of the genetic dam on the next line.

### **10) Controls**

Where AI technicians are not using handhelds or where DIY AI is taking place the Society may ask for, where relevant, AI statement, proof of semen purchase, records of bulls use during insemination and DIY AI license number.

One in twenty-four heifers registered will be selected randomly for DNA profiling, this selection is made by ICBF who will send out a DNA kit to the breeder. This is paid for by the breeder. This is to ensure correct parentage is being registered. In the event of this animal not having its parentage verified, the Board could decide to carry out further DNA testing. In the case of Breeding Stock bulls being registered a DNA profile is required and both sire and dam parentage verification.

### **11) Imports**

The following is the steps and requirements to importing an animal and getting it registered on the herd book.

- Pedigree imported animals need to have a Zootechnical Certificate.

If an animal has not got the relevant paper work or if we have a doubt in the back pedigree breeding of the animal we will then ask for details of the relevant herd book in the country of origin and we will contact them.

- If an animal is in calf when it arrives in Ireland the appropriate section of the Zootechnical Certificate must be completed.

### **12) System for Recording Pedigree of Purebred Breeding Animals**

Taurus Electronic Database is used to record information through ICBF from the breeder.

The following information is gathered:

Breeders name, herd number, address, animal pedigree name, national tag number, sex, calving type, single/twin, date of birth, dam, sire, section, back pedigree, class.

### **13) Selection and Breeding objectives of the breeding programme.**

The breeding objective of the Montbeliarde breed society is to achieve a strong, docile animal with good dairy ability but also maintaining the beefing ability characteristic of the breed. An ideal female example would be weighing 550-700kgs, with 283 days gestation, with a calving interval of 365 days. Milk production of 7000-8000 litres of milk with 4% fat and 3.75% protein.

To meet this breeding objectives a breeder can use the services of Coopex for annual specific herd mating plans using the top AI proven bulls available. Currently Coopex are the only suppliers of Montbeliarde semen to Ireland.

#### **14) Performance Testing or Genetic Evaluation**

The Montbeliarde breed society undertake 'Performance Testing' and 'Genetic Evaluation' as part of their breeding programme.

##### **-Performance Testing**

The following data is collected as part of performance testing through ICBF: Calving surveys, milk performance through milk recordings, gestation length, linear scores, weights and slaughter weights.

##### **- Genetic Evaluations**

ICBF evaluation system uses 'EBI' (Economic Breeding Index) as its main method of breeding value output which is a

single figure profit index. It comprises information on seven sub-indexes related to profitable milk production. These are (1) Milk Production, (2) Fertility, (3) Calving Performance, (4) Beef Carcass, (5) Cow Maintenance, (6) Cow Management and (7) Health. The EBI is provided on the zootechnical certificate and is relevant on the date of print of that certificate. Updated evaluations are available from the secretary on request.

Livestock performance with regard to the Montbeliarde Breed is also measured using the French ISU system. This is not applicable to Irish bred stock but is useful for bull semen selection when breeding.

##### **Genomics**

The society can offer genomic evaluation to breeders if they so wish. This is outsourced to ICBF. Results of this genomic test is then added to the data. This can be done through hair samples from dam and progeny to prove parentage.

#### **15) Outsourcing of technical activities**

All Genomic testing will be carried out by  
ICBF, Link Road, Ballincollig, Co.Cork, P31 D452

Tel: (023) 8820222

Email: [query@icbf.com](mailto:query@icbf.com)

Zootechnical Certificate Generation and Supplementary certificate generation by ICBF through Taurus.

#### **16) Authorised Derogations on the issuing of Zootechnical Certificates**

None.

#### **17) Zootechnical Certificate and Supplementary Certificates**

The zootechnical certificate will be printed on Society paper with the animal's ancestry.

It shall be issued within two months when all registration criteria are met to the Breeder, he/she who has registered the calf and entered the animal into the breeding programme.

Where an animal is recorded in the supplementary section, a supplementary certificate will

be provided. The onus is on the breeder to verify that all information on the certificate is correct and if not, to contact the societies office with corrections.

On sale or transfer within Ireland of any animal the vendor should supply its zootechnical/supplementary certificate. Purchasers of animals should return the zootechnical/supplementary certificate together with the appropriate transfer fee to the Society in order to change the ownership details.

If a breeder chooses to de-register an animal they can however if it is sold and the new owner chooses to re-register the same animal they are allowed to do so.

Revised October 2023