

Breeding Programme of The Irish Angus Cattle Society Ltd. 2948R

The Irish Angus Cattle Society is recognised under EU Commission Regulation 2016/1012 and approved to maintain and operate a herdbook.
IACS Council approved on __09/11/2022_____

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Name of the Breed	4
3. Programme Aim	4
4. Breed Characteristics	4
5. Geographical Territory	5
6. Herdbook Division	5
7. Animal Identification	6
8. Breeding Book Entry Procedures	7
9. Control Checks	8
10. Identification Information on System	8
11. Selection & Breeding Objectives	9
12. Performance Testing & Genetic Evaluations	9
13. Zootechnical Certificate	10
14. Outsourcing of Technical Activity	11
15. Derogation authorized under Article 31(1)	12
16. Appendix 1: Irish Angus Herdbook Fee Structure	12



1. Introduction

The Irish Angus Cattle Society was established in 1967, having as its primary objective the development and improvement of the breed in Ireland. A progressive Society, it is responsible for introducing AI to the breed and for acquiring Canadian blood lines which radically improved the conformation of the Angus breed. It is also the first Breed Society in Ireland to introduce a breed specific beef scheme – the Certified Irish Angus Beef Scheme.

The Irish Angus Herd Book is approved by the European Union and therefore has international standing. The Society takes an active role in the Pedigree Cattle Breeder's Council of Ireland and is a member of Irish Cattle Breeding Federation and World Angus Forum.

The Council of the Society, which has primary responsibility for all activities and Herd Book rules, is democratically elected each year. Breeders Clubs in both Munster and Leinster help to organize the members and promote the breed in these specific areas. With members in each of the thirty-two counties, the Society has approximately 1,200 members in total.

The Society is keenly interested in encouraging farmers to breed Pedigree Irish Angus Cattle. Costs are kept to a minimum and by comparison with other breed societies its charges for membership and calf registration are extremely competitive.

Angus is a breed that has grown in popularity over the last number of years because it is a breed that fits the criteria of a breed that is required in the present-day climate. The importance of traits such as easy calving and short gestation have come into the limelight a lot more in recent years as we try to improve efficiencies at farm level. With Labour being one of the main restraints on many of our productive farms around the country polledness in cattle is another labour saver on farms while also being more animal welfare friendly.

Lowering the overall carbon output of our production systems is becoming the centerpiece of how we produce cattle in Ireland with that in mind Angus cattle are an early maturing breed that has the ability to finish off grass-based diet. A robust resilient breed that is less prone to veterinary intervention or antibiotics is of up most importance as we try to rely less on antibiotic treatments. Its meat quality is regarded as one of the best in the world for its high marbling and tenderness granting a premium to the producer when marketed.

2. Name of the Breed

The name of the breed is Irish Angus Cattle.

3. Programme Aims

The Irish Angus Cattle Society Breeding Programme has as its main aim to continually improve the breed and to breed Bulls that are easy calving with good beefing potential in their progeny and to breed cows that can calf unassisted with good milk and fertility.

4. Breed Characteristics

Irish Angus cattle are characteristically black/red, polled, beef type animals.

The coat colour is black/red with the possible exception of the underline behind the naval, where minor white markings are permitted. The hair is short to medium in length, silky and of medium thickness. The skin is black-pigmented. The head is small to medium in length, broad in the forehead, wide and black on the muzzle and is always polled. Scurs are undesirable characteristics.

The body is long with a straight wide back, deep body and chest and with the underline parallel to the back. The hindquarters are long, wide and fully fleshed with the flesh carried well down to the hocks.

Among the beef breeds Irish Angus produce relatively small calves at birth, which are generally born without difficulty. However, they grow quickly producing relatively early maturing, high quality beef animals particularly suited to the best quality butcher trade. They have a high carcass to liveweight percentage and a low percentage of bone in the joints.

Irish Angus cattle are hardy, adaptable cattle suitable to beef production under a range of different production and environmental conditions. The Irish Angus is a particularly suitable breed for crossing with dairy breeds to produce animals suitable for beef production. It's easy calving, pollness, beefing quality and colour marking characteristics are much valued in this regard.

5. Geographical Territory

The Irish Angus Cattle Society will operate in the Republic of Ireland.

6. Herd Book Division

(1) Main Section

Animals eligible for entry into the main section of the Irish Angus Cattle Society Herdbook shall be:

- I. Animals, whose parents and grandparents are entered in the main section of the Irish Angus Cattle Society Herdbook or in another recognised Herdbook of the same breed.
- II. Animals, that are identified at birth in accordance with Union Health Law for the identification of bovines and the rules of as set out in the Breeding Programme.
- III. Animals, whose pedigree was established in accordance with the rules of the Breeding Programme.
- IV. Accompanied by a zootechnical certificate where that animal is traded in or entered into the Union and is intended to be entered in the breeding book.
- V. Accompanied by a germinal product zootechnical certificate where an animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book and was produced from that germinal product which was traded, or which entered into the Union.

b) The Main Section of the herd book shall be divided into two classes, Class I and Class II as follows:

To qualify for entry in Class I of the Main section of the herdbook an animal shall comply with all the characteristics of the breed and be free from genetic defects and undesirable characteristics as listed below:

- 1) Scurs/horns
- 2) Double muscle
- 3) Excessive white especially unacceptable in front of the navel
- 4) Undershot or overshot jaw
- 5) The four recessive defects in the Angus breed, arthrogryposis multiplex (AM) referred to as curly calf which lowers the mobility of joints; neuropathic hydrocephalus (NH) also called waterhead which causes an enlarged skull; contractual arachnodactyly (CA) also called " fawn calf syndrome" which reduces mobility and dwarfism; both parents need to carry the recessive genes for a calf to be affected and these defects can be managed by DNA testing/Genomic testing at breeders expenses.

To qualify for entry in Class II of the Main section of the herdbook an animal must meet the minimum criteria for entry in the Main Section as stated above. however, the animal does not meet the criteria for Class I.

- a. An animal from another Member State shall be entered in the class of the herdbook whose criteria it meets or any other Angus Society herdbook outside the EU where they are entered or registered in a herdbook or register kept by an authority listed according to article 34 of regulation 2016.10.12
- b. The classification of an animal may change after registration if the animal is found to be a carrier of a genetic defect or has other undesirable breed characteristics. The classification of the animal will be noted on the Zootechnical Certificate.

7. Animal Identification

- I. All animals are uniquely identified using their National Identification (NID) Number which is visually displayed on the ear tag of the animal.
- II. All animals are also provided with a Herdname (Prefix) and Name (Forename). The prefix shall consist of one approved word only (see note 1) and the breeder shall pay a fee as per the schedule of fees for registration thereof at the time of Membership or Breeder application. The forename (see note 2) must begin with the Year Letter for the year of birth. This Letter is assigned annually by Council.

Note 1: A prefix that has been used by a member or breeder may not subsequently be used by another breeder except when a herd is taken over by the representative of the family of the previous owner of such herd, otherwise, no prefix may be transferred from one member or breeder) or herd to another unless special permission of the Council of the Society is obtained.

Note 2: The forename must not exceed three words and in the case of an animal born as a result of embryo transfer, the last word of the name must be ET. Names deemed inappropriate will not be accepted and will be amended.

8. Breeding Book Entry Procedure

Animals

- a) The entry of every animal in the Society's Herd Book must be tendered for registration by the owner.
- b) If the owner wishes to register an animal in the Society's herd book he shall make an application by completing the appropriate sections of the animal notification form or assigning a name to this animal online when applying for Dept. of Ag. Blue card, and paying the appropriate fee (See Appendix 1), which shall be decided from time to time by the Council.
- c) Where notification of intention to register an animal is received after 60 days, the appropriate late registration fee (See Appendix 1) as decided by the Council from time to time shall be paid. In this case, proof of parentage using Genomic/DNA analysis may be requested in addition to late registration fee at breeder's expense. Animals one year and over must be parentage verified. Animals bought in and being registered in new owners herd must be parentage verified.
- d) A member/breeder may withdraw in writing to the Secretary, his application for registration of an animal at any time within 3 months of the date of birth and have his registration fee refunded.

Imported Animal

In the case of animals imported into Ireland, the owner of the animal must supply a zootechnical certificate in accordance with EU 2016/1012 regulation.

Embryo Transfers:

- Where embryo transfers are contemplated, a breeder must apply in writing to the Society for approval giving the name and herd book number of the dam, the name of the sire and the name and address of the Veterinary Practitioner or other approved person who will carry out the operation.
- Where calves are born as a result of Embryo Transfer the official insemination certificate(s) must be countersigned by the veterinary officer in charge of the Embryo Transfer and must be forwarded to the Society at the time of notification of birth. Before calves born as a result of Embryo Transfer are registered by the Society documentary evidence of accuracy of parentage based on Genomic/DNA typing must be produced at the owner's expense.

Errors

Where an error is detected by the breeder on a Zootechnical Certificate, the original Zootechnical Certificate should be submitted to the Breed Society outlining the error. A corrected Zootechnical Certificate will be issued where the error can be rectified.

9. Control Checks

- Gestation length - Where the known gestation length exceeds 300 days, the animal being registered will have to be Genomic/DNA tested at the owners' expense.
- Bulls for Pedigree use & A.I. Sires – All bulls used for pedigree breeding must be sire verified and all sires from which semen is collected (A.I. Centre & On-farm) must be both Sire & Dam verified.
- Artificial Insemination - Where calves are born as a result of artificial insemination, the official insemination certificate shall be forwarded to the Society at the time of the notification of birth. Where more than one insemination has been made all the official insemination certificates shall be forwarded.
- Spot Checks – On in every 50th attempted registration will be DNA typed for sire & dam verification (where the dam is available).
- First Calvers - All first calving females are DNA or Genotyped on request if not previously typed on the registration of their first calf.
- Embryo Transfer – All calves born as a result of Embryo Transfer shall be both Sire & dam verified prior to registration.
- Whole Herd Performance Recording (WHPR) – All breeders participating in the WHPR are checked on a yearly basis by an ICBF approved technician.
- Herd Inspections – The Society will carry out random herd inspections as agreed and implemented by Council.
- Myostatin:
 - (a) All new sires will require their myostatin status established before their progeny will be accepted for registration into IACS herd book at the expense of the owner. The results will be printed on the zootechnical certificate. (New sire means the first registration of progeny by that sire in IACS herd book)
 - (b) The progeny of known carriers (single or double) will require their myostatin status established prior to Registration.
 - (c) Double carriers will only be eligible for registration in Class 2 of herd book. (The progeny of Class 2 animals may be eligible for entry into Class 1 if verified by Genomic/DNA and subject to approval by council.)

10. Identification Information on System

All data pertaining to the recording of the pedigree of a purebred Irish Angus animal entering into the breeding book is recorded onto the electronic database (Taurus). For each animal entered, the following information is recorded: NID, Sex, Date of Birth, Dam, Sire, Grandparents, Pedigree Name, Section of Breeding Book, DNA information where available, Breeder Details, owner Details and all other information such as conformation defects, twinning status and pedigree verification.

11. Selection & Breeding Objectives

The breeding objective of Irish Angus are twofold.

Firstly, is to produce a calf that is easily calved with a high survival rate due to its ability to get up and suckle from a mother that has lots of milk and very high mothering ability.

Secondly the breeding objective is to produce an early maturing high-quality Irish Angus animal that is suitable for home and foreign markets. This is achieved through the genetic improvement of traits such as slaughtering age, live weight gain, feed conversion efficiency, dressing-out percentage, meat quality, calving ease and fertility.

The breeding objective is partially achieved through the breed improvement programme where bull calves are weighed at major Society shows and elite sales where a maximum acceptable weight for age is based on a 45 kg birth weight combined with 1.6 kg ADG and 1.4 kg ADG for maiden heifers. This is an effort to retain genetics within the breed that are in line with our breed characteristics which are easy calving, hardiness, early maturing,

As part of the breed improvement programme the Society is endeavouring to promote and improve Irish Angus genetics by selecting suitable bulls for semen collection and distribution to breeders. Bulls are selected on Pedigree, visual phenotype in line with the above stated breed characteristics and use of traditional bloodlines.

Eurostar information is published in Society sales catalogues and this may be used in conjunction with knowledge of pedigree and the phenotypic appearance of the animal when selecting the best animals to breed from. Ease of calving indices along with docility and milking ability are especially important criteria in the selection of breeding animals for improving the breed. In addition, breeders should focus on the reliability figure for a particular trait.

12. Performance Testing & Genetic Evaluations

Performance Testing & Genetic Evaluations are outsourced and compiled by ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation)(www.icbf.com).

The IACS promotes to its breeders all Performance Recording Schemes which capture information either through ICBF or independent operators.

The key objectives for collecting such data from the IACS perspective are:

- Calving Ease – All breeders are asked to submit accurate calving ease data on all births. Such data is then used to assist in the compiling of the current calving evaluations by ICBF. The Calving Survey at the time of registration is: 1 = Normal Calving, 2 = Some Assistance, 3 = Considerable Difficulty, 4 = Vet Assistance.

- Gestation Length / Fertility – All breeders must submit accurate insemination and natural service dates when registering their animals. These feed into the Gestation length evaluations. These in turn are used in the Fertility index calculations.
- Maternal Traits – Traits such as Cow Milk ability, Docility and both Cow & Weanling weights are contributed to by Breeders participating in the various DAFF Schemes. All these traits are used in the calculation of the Maternal evaluations.
- Carcase Traits – The capture of all carcase trait data at time of slaughter assists in the calculation of the maternal trait evaluations. These subsequently flow into the calculations of the Terminal Index.

The Replacement Index and the Terminal Index are calculated using the following weightings from the above traits.

	Maternal Index	Terminal Index
Calving Score	16%	26%
Carcase Data	39%	56%
Fertility	23%	
Milk Score	18%	
Docility	4%	2%
Feed Intake		16%

Genomics – The IACS are promoting the use of the new SNP Genomic technology and this will greatly increase the reliability of the evaluations formulated by ICBF.

The Irish Angus Cattle Society accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of evaluations arising from the methodology used. This methodology can be found on the ICBF website (www.icbf.com) .

13. Zootechnical Certificate

- Following receipt of the Animal information and on verification of the pedigree data and on the conformity to the rules of the breeding programme including payment, the Irish Angus Cattle Society will issue a Zootechnical Certificate to the owner. Where it is found necessary to withdraw a Zootechnical Certificate, no refund of fees will be guaranteed.
- The Zootechnical Certificate will contain the details of both the Breeder and Owner. With regard to the issuing of a zootechnical Certificate the Breeder is the individual who owned the dam when the animal was born and entered into the breeding book. The owner is the person who owns the animal. In the case of joint owners both will appear.

- c. Results of relevant genomic tests, performance testing and/or genetic evaluations are published on the Zootechnical Certificate. Twin animals are also recorded.
- d. If a Zootechnical Certificate is destroyed or lost a duplicate will be issued by the Society on payment of a set fee, the amount of which shall be decided from time to time by the Council.
- e. In the case of an animal which has been entered in the breeding book and subsequently is shown to be the carrier of undesirable conformation characteristics. Such defects shall be recorded on the Zootechnical Certificate.
- f. The Zootechnical Certificate is requested when an animal from another breeding programme is being put forward for entry into the IACS breeding programme.
- g. Change of Ownership. On application a new Zootechnical Certificate will be issued with the name of the new owner.
- h. In the event of an error being identified on the Zootechnical Certificate, the Breeder must submit the Zootechnical Certificate to the Society and a new amended Zootechnical Certificate will be issued.

14. Outsourcing of Technical Activity

The following technical activities of the IACS are outsourced to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)

- The Taurus data base which contains all data relevant to the IACS breeding book.
- All genetic evaluations for the IACS.
- Training for Irish angus Society staff in matters relevant to the IACS data base

ICBF's contact details are:

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation
Link Rd.
Ballincollig
Co. Cork.
Tel: 00353 23 8820452
Email: query@icbf.com
www.icbf.com

15. Derogation Authorised under Article 31(1)

A derogation had been granted by the competent authority in line with Article 31(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 to authorise the following Semen Collection or Storage Centres and Embryo Collection or Production Teams to issue Zootechnical Certificates for germinal products on behalf of the IACS.

Gerard Beirne, Bova AI, Bova Embryo & Scanning, Bovi Genetics, Bull Bank, Celtic Sires, Champion Embryos, Coney Island Genetics, Dovea AI, Laurence Dunne, Dunmasc Genetics, Elite Pedigree Genetics, Eurogene, Genecel Ireland, Glencoyne Genetics, Thomas Griffin, Kevin Genetics, David Markham, Munster AI, NCBC, Sligo AI, & XYZ Genetics

16. Appendix 1

Irish Angus Cattle Society Fee Structure

Item:	Amount:
Membership Application (Inc 1 st year subscription)	€50
Herd Prefix	€25
Annual Subscription	€50
Registration Fee (Within 60 Days of Birth)	€35
Late Fee (In addition to registration fee)	€10 per month late
Duplicate Certificate	€15
Amended Certificate	€10
Life Membership	€500