



Model Cow Profile

An ARDB cow should exhibit a calm nature coupled with a strong motivation to forage and ruminate, with inbuilt resilience. Her outward appearance should avoid extremes, combining vigour and robustness with a strong will to milk, flawless reproductive performance and strong resistance to all diseases. She must move freely throughout her daily routine and convert forage into high quality milk efficiently. These characteristics should also be evident in young calves, enabling them to attain target growth rates and correct bodyweight at first calving.

VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS

- An ARDB cow should be red, or red and white, with preferably no white pigment around her eyes.
- Stature should be between 140 and 145 centimetres at the hip, while body/chest depth and width should be generous, but not excessive.
- Dairy character and angularity need to exhibit the will to milk, but not at the expense of reproductive performance, cow health or her ability to build sufficient body condition in late lactation.
- Her rump should be of moderate length and width, with a gentle rearward slope to maintain high reproductive performance, good leg function and effortless udder carriage. She should have intermediate leg set, generous heel depth and parallel rear legs, set on durable dark hooves, for proper function in grazing farm systems.
- Udders should be shallow in depth with strong attachments and centre ligament, be well balanced with strong fore-udders. Udder texture should be soft and pliable. Teats must be of adequate length and thickness, squarely positioned in the middle of each quarter, avoiding close rear teats, and be compatible to all forms of milking machine automation and must milk out freely.

PRODUCTION TRAITS

- Breeding values for the model ARDB cow ranks her in the top 10% of the breed.
- When fed appropriately in profitable pasture based forage systems, the ideal ARDB cow is able to produce as a mature cow in excess of 650kgs Milk Solids, in 305 day lactations.
- ARDB milk Protein and Fat percentages will be higher than industry average.
- Lactation persistence is essential where it does not negatively affect reproduction or cow health traits.

HEALTH ASPECTS

- Herd life of the ideal ARDB cow should be six lactations or more and she should not be prone to metabolic diseases, mastitis, lameness or reproductive disorders. The somatic cell count goal is below 100,000.
- First calving age should be 23-24 months and there should be a maximum of two inseminations for each pregnancy.
- A twelve month calving interval is essential for seasonal calving herds.
- The ARDB cow should have a positive Breeding Value for fertility.
- Hoof trimming should not be required
- All calvings should be unassisted.

WORKABILITY IDEALS

- Temperament rating should be A,B or C (A to E range)
- Milking speed rating should be A, B or C (A to E range)
- Likeability rating should be A or B (A to E range)

ARDB Breeding Policies

GENETIC COMPOSITION

- ARDB registration eligibility is based on the requirement for at least one parent to be registered in a recognised Red Dairy breed. Specified breeds are: ARDB, Angler, Ayrshire, Danish Red, Dairy or Milking Shorthorn, Illawarra, Norwegian Red, Swedish Red, Red and White Holstein.
- To retain ARDB identity, the most desirable pedigrees contain less than 12.5% Red Holstein in the first four generations. Bulls with greater than 12.5% Holstein content are to be suitably denoted in marketing material.

BREEDING GOAL

- These ideals should extend through to breeding even and consistent herds of ARDB cattle.
- Buyers of ARDB genetics should have access to consistent, high performance, genetic products when they purchase live animals, embryos or semen.
- ARDB breeders must have the confidence to provide sound guarantees for satisfactory performance in buyer's herds.

Developed in 2015

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