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Rules of the Western Australian pure bred dairy cattle production recording scheme

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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RULES OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PURE BRED DAIRY CATTLE PRODUCTION RECORDING SCHEME

Conducted by the Dairying Division, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia as amended 22-4-66.

REVISION of these rules was necessary because of the amalgamation of the field work with that of Grade Herd Recording. Adjustments have been made to facilitate more expeditious handling of records in the Department’s Head Office. Other minor changes have been made to bring the rules into line with present day practice.

(1) TITLE
The scheme shall be known as the Western Australian Pure Bred Dairy Cattle Production Recording Scheme for milk and butterfat production and for solids-not-fat percentage. However testing for solids-not-fat shall be an optional extra.

(2) OFFICIAL YEAR
The Official year will commence on March 1st and end on February 28th.

(3) APPLICATIONS FOR TESTING
A farmer desirous of having his herd tested shall by the 31st January each year submit an application on the appropriate forms AD23 and AD23A which must be accompanied by the prescribed fees or Procuration Order.
An owner wishing to enter one or more cows as “B” class (see rule 6), which are exempted from payment of fees for butterfat test, should complete form AD24.

(4) ELIGIBLE COWS
Cows which are registered or accepted for registration in a recognised Herd Book or the Appendix of such Herd Book will be accepted for the Official Scheme.

(5) IDENTIFICATION
Any cow entered for test must be identifiable to the satisfaction of the Chief, Division of Dairying, Department of Agriculture.

The Testing Officer shall be supplied by the member with details including full name and ear tattoo, date of calving, date of birth, sire and dam for each cow as it enters test.
A member shall, when requested by the testing Officer, place in the milking shed a list showing the description of all cows in the milking herd.
If the Officer is having difficulty recognising individual cows he may request that individual identification by brand or other method be adopted, and the members shall accede to this request. This identification to be in addition to the ear tattoo or photograph acceptable to the Herd Society.

(6) CLASSIFICATION
All milking cows in the herd must be tested annually and all eligible cows passing through the shed must be tested each month. Such cows will be classified on receipt of the entry forms or at the commencement of the first test as “A” or “B” class.
The records of yields of “B” class cows will not be published or used in calculating averages either for the herd or the scheme as a whole.
The following cows may, with the approval of the Chief, Division of Dairying, be classified as “B” class:
(i) Cows which have aborted.
(ii) Sick cows.
(iii) Cows with permanently diseased or damaged udders or which produce milk from less than four quarters
Cows in category (ii) and (iii) automatically become “A” class if they produce 100 lb. butterfat in the first four months of their lactation period.

(iv) Nominated Cows
(a) A nominated cow is one which calves normally but on entry to test is nominated for culling. If such a cow is not out of the herd after three months of lactation she shall automatically become “A” class.
(b) Heifers entering their first lactation are not eligible for nomination.

(v) Strippers: A stripper is a cow which calved more than 150 days prior to the first test or has already completed a full lactation period but has not again freshened. Strippers remain “B” class for the remainder of the lactation.

(vi) Cows more than 12 years of age at date of calving which have been tested for at least four lactation periods.

(vii) Heifers which have calved when under the age of eighteen months.

(7) FEES
Fees for Herd Registration, and for the estimated number of cows which will calve during the year, are payable in advance as under:
Registration—Thirty dollars ($30) annually for the testing year.
Per Cow—
(i) Butterfat two dollars ($2) for each “A” class cow.
(ii) Solids-not-fat two dollars ($2) for each cow whether “A” or “B” class.

Debits for each cow will be raised as it enters lactation. If for any reason a herd is withdrawn from test, fees paid for any cow which has not calved will be refunded.
While fees are chargeable on a lactation basis, testing of all cows will cease at the end of a testing year unless the owner elects to re-enter his herd for the subsequent year.

(8) DUAL HERDS
Where a breeder owns more than one herd or desires the Recording to be carried out at more than one centre, each shall be considered a separate herd and fees payable accordingly. However if a herd is made up of two breeds on one property only one entry fee will be required.

(9) LACTATION PERIOD
The lactation period shall be 300 days, which shall be divided into ten (10) sub-periods of 30 days each. Cows may be continued under test for 365 days at the owner’s request and the lactation shall consist of 11 periods of 30 days and a twelfth period of 35 days.

(10) METHOD OF CALCULATING RECORDS
Yields shall be calculated as follows:
The cows shall be tested once in each sub-period at approximately equal intervals of time, i.e., 30 days. Where it is not possible to make a test immediately after an interval of 30 days it may be taken not more than 35 days nor less than 25 days after the preceding one, and if this is not practicable, the calculations for the sub-period concerned shall be obtained by averaging the prior and subsequent tests, as in the case of abnormal test (vide rule 22.)
The official yield shall be the sum of the yields of each sub-period.
The yield for each sub-period shall be calculated as follows:
The milk yield shall be the amount produced over a period of 24 hours multiplied by 30 except the last sub-period in a 365 day test when it will be multiplied by 35.
The butterfat yield shall be determined by the same method as the milk yield and shall be taken to the nearest whole pound.

(11) TESTING OFFICER
The testing shall be done by Officers appointed by the Department of Agriculture.
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(12) LOCATION OF TESTING
(a) Testing for butterfat of samples of milk taken during Recording may be carried out by the Recorder on the farm or may, with the approval of the Chief, Division of Dairying be taken under adequate protection to be tested at an approved centre.
(b) Testing for solids-not-fat will be carried out in the Dairy Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, Perth.

(13) COMMENCEMENT OF TEST
No cow shall be tested unless 5 days (120) hours have elapsed since calving.

(14) WEIGHING, SAMPLING AND TESTING OF MILK
(a) Each test shall be over a period of 24 hours and at each milking the milk of each cow shall be weighed and, after thorough mixing, sampled. Night and morning samples are to be tested separately for butterfat percentage.
(b) If the herd has been entered for SNF testing, in addition a composite sample shall be prepared for each cow and forwarded to the Dairy Laboratory, Perth for testing for solids-not-fat percentage.

(15) CHECK TESTING
A check test will be carried out not less than three times per year. This may be done by the same officer or a separate officer and will be in the 24 hours immediately after the normal test.

The results of the check test shall not, except at the direction of the Chief, Division of Dairying, be made available to the member concerned.

The check test figures shall not be used for the purpose of calculating monthly production unless the Chief Division of Dairying considers it advisable to substitute the whole of the check test figures for the ordinary monthly figures.

(16) SAMPLING AND TESTING PROCEDURE
(a) The Recorder shall weigh the milk from each cow on approved scales, at each of two consecutive milkings to the nearest half pound and record the weight on the day sheet (AD119).
(b) Milk weight for the day shall be recorded to the nearest whole pound; half a pound should be added where the total of PM and AM Samples contains a half pound.
(c) Evening and morning samples shall be kept in different bottles and tested separately.
(d) The percentage of butterfat in the samples shall be determined by the Babcock method.

(17) HERD OWNER WILL BE PROVIDED WITH DAILY RECORD SHEET
(a) The testing officer shall, after each testing day, leave with the member a day sheet (AD119), setting out milk and butterfat production of each cow for the day and the sub-period concerned, and the progressive yield of each cow from the day of entry to test. The daily yield of butterfat shall be calculated by the following formula:

\[
\text{Daily Milk} \times \text{Test} \times \frac{\text{100}}{}
\]

and the sub-period yield of milk and butterfat shall be 30 times the daily yield.
(b) Solids-not-fat. A statement showing the percentage of solids-not-fat for each cow, if the herd is entered for this test, will be forwarded each month to the member from the Department of Agriculture, South Perth.

(18) RATIONS FED TO COWS
Owners must give the Officer information as to the class, quantity or any other details regarding the ration fed during the period of the test, and allow samples of the various food stuffs to be taken for analysis, when deemed advisable by the Department.

The feeding of whole milk or cream to cows undergoing test is prohibited.

(19) NUMBER OF MILKINGS PER DAY
No cow shall be milked more than twice per day unless this is the owner’s general
practice and the cow is yielding more than 60 lb. per day. Twice per day milking must be resumed when the cow’s yield falls to 50 lb. per day.

(20) COWS GIVING LESS THAN 4 LB. PER DAY

No milk weight shall be credited to any cow unless the aggregate milk weight of both milkings in 24 hours totals 4 lb. or over.

(21) CREDIT TO BE GIVEN ON FIRST TEST

In cases where owners are commencing to test their herds for the first time, or where it has been found impracticable to test certain cows until after they have been calved for a period and on receipt of satisfactory evidence from the owner as to the date of calving cows will be credited with milk and butterfat production as shown hereunder, such credits to be based on the first 24 hours test made by the testing officer.

(22) AVERAGING ABNORMAL TESTS

When a yield of milk or butterfat during the 24 hour test period differs by more than 25 per cent. from the preceding test, such test may be reported as abnormal. Reasons for abnormalities shall be noted by the testing officer. The final decision as to abnormality shall rest with the Chief, Division of Dairying. In the case of a cow testing abnormally, such test shall be recorded, but may not be used in calculating the yield for the lactation. In such case an average will be made from the preceding and succeeding tests to determine production for the sub-period.

If the first test of a lactation is accepted as abnormal the cow will be credited as if the second test were the first and credits given if necessary according to rule 21.

(23) ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES

The Department of Agriculture shall issue a Production Certificate showing the production in each lactation of each cow which attains or exceeds the required standard.

A junior 2 year old shall be one which is under $2\frac{1}{3}$ years of age on day of calving.

A senior 2 year old shall be one which is $2\frac{1}{3}$ years but under 3 years of age on day of calving.

A junior 3 year old shall be one which is 3 years but under $3\frac{1}{3}$ years of age on day of calving.

A senior 3 year old shall be one which is $3\frac{1}{3}$ years but under 4 years of age on day of calving.

A junior 4 year old shall be one which is 4 years but under 4$\frac{1}{3}$ years of age on day of calving.

A senior 4 year old shall be one which is 4$\frac{1}{3}$ years but under 5 years of age on day of calving.

A mature cow shall be one which is 5 years of age or over on day of calving.

(24) STANDARDS OF PRODUCTION

The standards upon which certificates shall be issued are shown hereunder:

- Junior 2 year old—260 lb. butterfat.
- Senior 2 year old—280 lb. butterfat.
- Junior 3 year old—300 lb. butterfat.
- Senior 3 year old—320 lb. butterfat.
- Junior 4 year old—330 lb. butterfat.
- Senior 4 year old—340 lb. butterfat.
- Mature cow—350 lb. butterfat.

(25) PUBLISHING RECORDS

All records may be published by the Department of Agriculture, as it deems advisable. Only complete “A” class lactations of 120-300 days duration will be used for purposes of calculating herd averages and tables based on the results of the Pure Bred Herd Recording Scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of days elapsing between calving and first test</th>
<th>Period of Production credited on first test (days)</th>
<th>No. of tests required for 300 day lactation period</th>
<th>Method of arriving at the 10th sub-period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-44</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Treat 10th test as for normal sub-period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-74</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Treat 9th test as 10th sub-period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 and over</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Treat 8th test as 10th sub-period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(26) SWORN DECLARATIONS
All particulars given to the Officer shall be on a sworn declaration when deemed necessary.

(27) FACILITIES
To enable the testing officer to carry out his duties satisfactory facilities must be provided. These shall include:

(a) A conveniently placed bench for use whilst taking samples and recording details for cows and their yields.
(b) A firm bench to carry the centrifuge during testing.
(c) Adequate supplies of hot water for testing and for cleansing equipment.
(d) Adequate ventilation and lighting.
(e) Fully equipped herd testing buckets and lids for use by the Recorder where and when required.

(28) RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION
If required the owner shall arrange transport of the officer or check testing officer and his equipment to and from the nearest public transport to the place of testing.

Accommodation must be provided overnight if required and meals supplied whilst the testing officer is on duty on the property and where the same officer is check testing. Where the check testing is carried out by another officer meals only will be required.

(29) MINIMUM NUMBER OF COWS
The minimum herd size shall be ten "A" class cows.

(30) Acceptance of these rules is a condition of membership.
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