

**DROIMEANN CATTLE SOCIETY**  
**Breeding Programme**

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**DROIMEANN CATTLE SOCIETY LTD**

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## Review & History

| Published  | Revision | Description   | Author                             | Approved                        |
|------------|----------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01/10/2016 | V1.0     | First document version  | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |
| 03/12/2017 | V1.1     | Update to the division of the herd book main section and update to registration procedure   | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |
| 07/01/2018 | V1.2     | Update to the division of the herd book Main Section  | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |
| 04/06/2018 | V1.3     | Removal of Birth Notification Form & addition of zoo technical certificate classification   | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |
| 09/06/2019 | V1.4     | Update of legacy herd book rules to conform to Breeding programme   | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |
| 22/02/2020 | V1.5     | Update to capture derogation allowing registration of female animals sired by a pedigree registered Droimeann Bull into section D | J. Casey, Droimeann Cattle Society | N. Hobson, Dept. of Agriculture |

## Droimeann Society Breeding Programme

### Aims of the Society

- To develop the breed, create and maintain a herd book within the geographical territory of the republic of Ireland
- To get the breed recognised by and get a breed code from Department of Agriculture.
- To promote the breed so as to increase the awareness of the Droimeann cattle as the oldest native Irish Breed.
- To ensure a sustainable breed population into the future.

### Appeals Procedure

The objective of this procedure is to provide a member who has a grievance with the Society an opportunity to have the grievance examined and resolved at the earliest practical moment and at the most local level possible. The society regards all members as equal.

While the matter is being considered under the Appeals Procedure, the operation of the Society cannot be interrupted. The person(s) raising the matter shall continue to comply with the rules of the Society during the course of the examination of the matter in question. By so doing he/she will not create any precedent nor will his/her membership of the Society be prejudiced in any way in relation to the matter being processed.

The procedure to apply shall be as follows:

#### Stage 1

A member who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to Society business should, in the first instance, write to the Chairman of the Council of the Society, making it clear, that stage 1 of the appeal procedure is being invoked. The Chairman will reply as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any case within thirty days from receipt of the letter from the appellant.

#### Stage 2

If the grievance is not resolved at Stage 1, or a reply is not forthcoming from the Council Chairman within 30 days, the member(s) may request in writing, which at their next Council meeting, the Council allow the member(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The member will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance. The Council will then reconsider the issue and must communicate its decision to the appellant within thirty days.

#### Stage 3

If the issue remains unresolved after stage 2, the member(s) may request an independent hearing. The Council shall grant such a hearing. Appeals at stage 3 will be heard by an individual with the appropriate expertise. It has been voted at a society meeting that any dispute that may arise between a member and the society will be adjudicated on by Diarmuid Connelly BL Co. Mayo who is our legal adviser and whose decision will be binding in all cases. From the date of appointment of the person hearing the appeal, the case will be heard and the decision taken will be communicated to both parties within three months. The person hearing the case will decide on the appointment of costs, as appropriate.

**Stage 4**

Any dispute that remains unresolved after stage 3 may be pursued by invoking provisions under the legal personality of the Society.

**The Society expects all its members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by the Society. The society has the right to exclude any member who does not comply with the breeding programme**

### Membership

Membership entitlement is open to anyone who owns a Droimeann animal for the purpose of breeding and which has been genotyped to verify its purity and is registered with the society

It is compulsory for all members to complete the society membership form and forward it to the society enclosing correct fees.

Membership is not final until approved by the board of the society and perspective members notified in writing.

Each member shall co-operate with any inspections that the Society may undertake as random spot checks etc. from time to time.

All members at the time of application shall be asked to supply a first and secondary preference for a prefix name. In the event that both prefixes are already taken they will be requested to submit two more.

The Society shall have the right to maintain a computerised record of member's transactions with the Society and reserve the right to penalise members found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the herd book of the Society.

### Breed standard

The Droimeann is a small to medium sized animal. They are generally even tempered with a placid disposition and are intelligent in nature. They are dairy like in shape and produce milk high in solids. When fattened and killed their meat is marbled and has a distinct flavour. They come in various colours ranging from nearly all black or red to white with dark ears and muzzle. More often they are dark sided red black or blue with a distinctive white back and underside. They do better than other breeds and poorer forge which they convert easily to milk and meat. The Droimeann cow is very fertile and is very early maturing. Females can often start cycling at 4 to 5 months of age.

### Characteristics of a Droimeann Cow:

1. Colour:

The Droimeann cow can come in a variety of colours from nearly all black and red to all white with dark ears and muzzle. They also come speckled sided but the most common colour is dark sided black, red or blue with a white back and underside. They generally have a white tail and a white diamond shape on their flank. Their front legs are usually darker in colour than their hind ones and their ears, muzzle and hooves are always dark.

## 2. Head and neck:

Horns: they are a horned breed. The horns are usually curved and at a slight upward angle

Eyes: their eyes are set neatly into their head and have a docile expression with no white showing.

Face: the face can be described as tulip shaped. It is not over long and is sometimes dished on the nasal bone just below eye level. It is usually dark sided with a mottled front dark ears and muzzle.

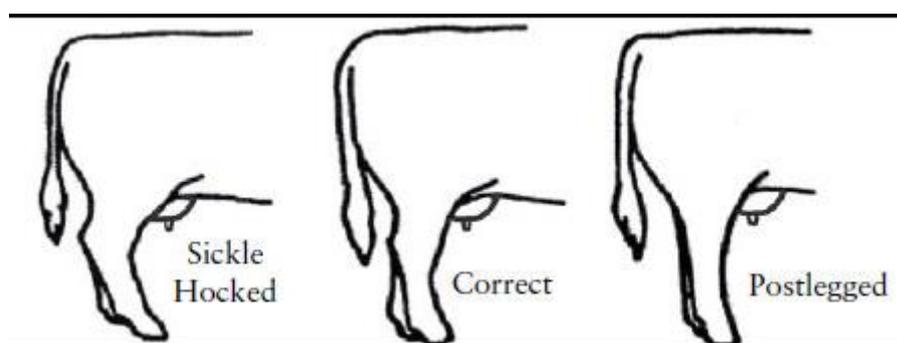
Neck: the neck should be of medium length, deep but not too thick. It should fit neatly into the shoulders being dark along the sides white on the crest and with a white ring around the throat just behind ears. A tear drop effect just under the eye is also another unique feature.

## 3. Feet and legs:

Legs: they should be of medium length with a nice clean quality of bone. Over coarseness of bone is to be avoided as this can lead to calving difficulties.

Feet: the hooves are always dark brown or black. This colour makes them very hardy and durable.

Locomotion: it is important that the cow moves freely with no sign of stiffness. From a rear view the hocks should not be touching. The hind legs from a side view should neither be sickled or straight at the hocks but in between with a good steep angle to the foot.



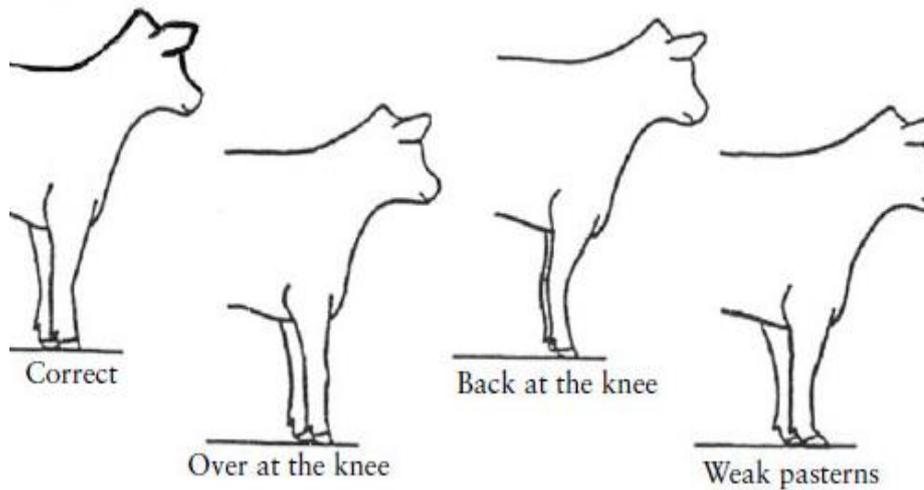
The fore legs should be correctly placed being neither over nor back at the knee with a good steep angle at the pastern.

## 4. Frame:

The Droimeann is a medium sized cow that is hardy in nature and easy to maintain. The ideal cow should average around 130cm (30") at the shoulder and always looks in proportion. She should be deep bodied with a flexible rib giving her the capacity to store large quantities of forage. This will enable her to thrive on poor quality pasture. A good with between the hip bones is desirable for easy calving.

The top line should be level the shoulders smooth and neatly fitting into the body and not very wide at the top. There should be some angularity at the shoulder is desirable as this is a sign that the cow can produce milk. The tail setting should be level and a high tail setting should not be encouraged. The slope of the rump should ideally be level but a little sloped is allowed. From a side view the thigh muscle should be well developed and at a right angle to

the top line. However this is not always possible and so the c



degrees the better.

5. Udder:

A good udder attachment, medium sized teeth with a good placement is desirable. The growth rate of the calf at foot rather than the size of the other will determine milking ability. Each quarter should be evenly sized with the other not dropping below the level of the hocks. This is important because the udder tends to drop as the cow gets older.

### Characteristics of a Droimeann Bull:

1. Colour:

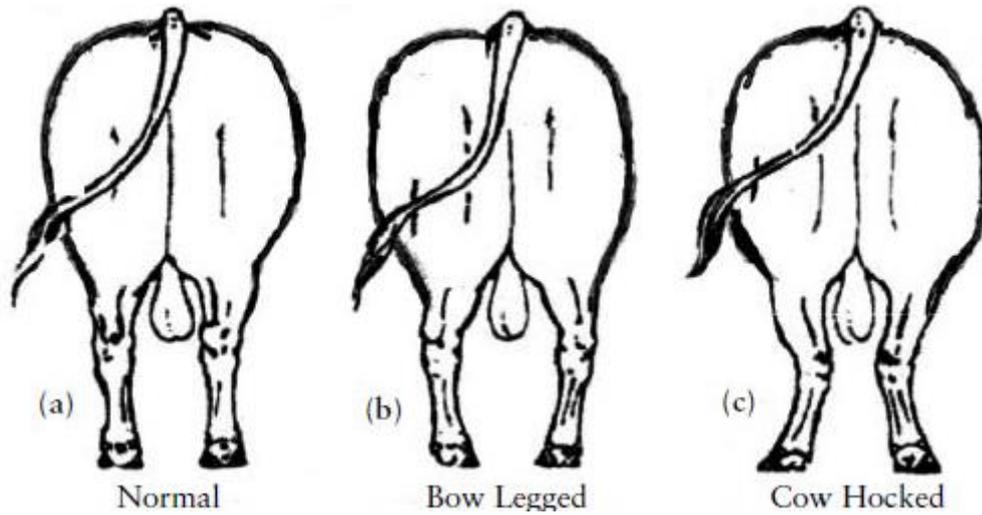
The same variation of colour as found with the Droimeann cow.

2. Head and neck:

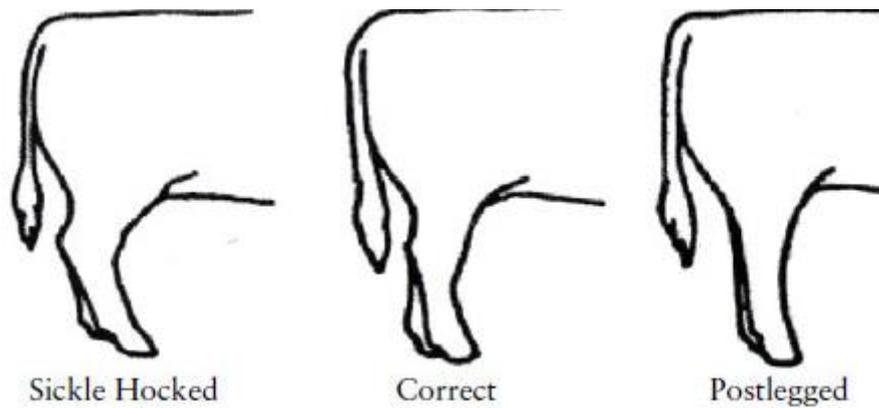
The head should be masculine in appearance the eyes bright and alert with a look at me attitude. It should be connected to the body with a muscled powerful neck.

3. Feet and legs:

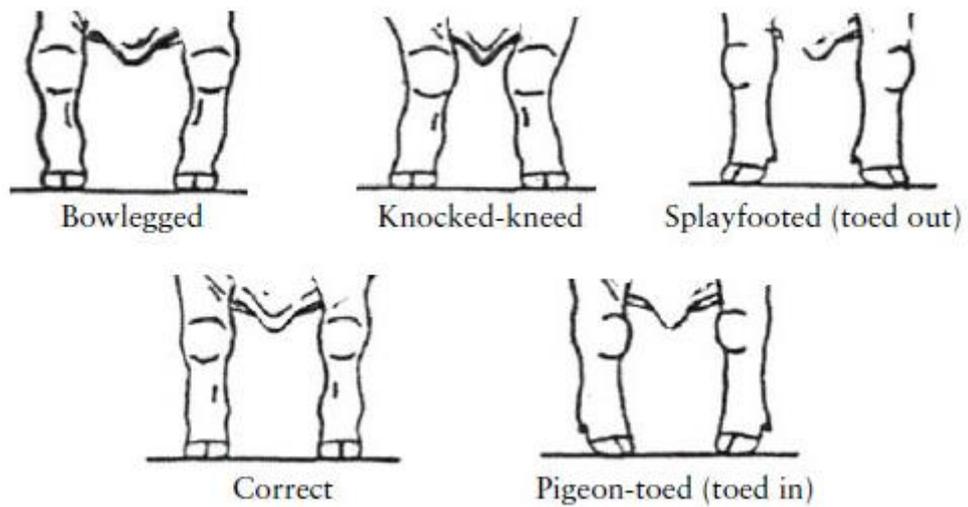
A medium length of leg with medium strength of bone is desirable. Too strong of bone could lead to calving problems. Hooves are either black or brown colour. White hooves are not desirable. It is important that the cow moves feely showing no sign of stiffness. The working frame carried by the back legs showing a natural width of stance slightly curved forward from the hock neither bow legged or cow hocked.



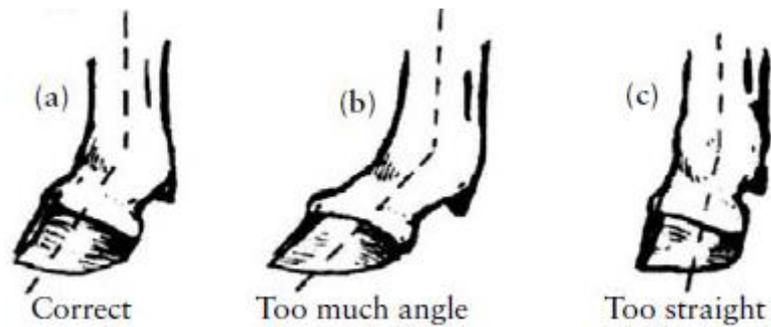
When viewed from the side it should be neither sickled nor straight but in between



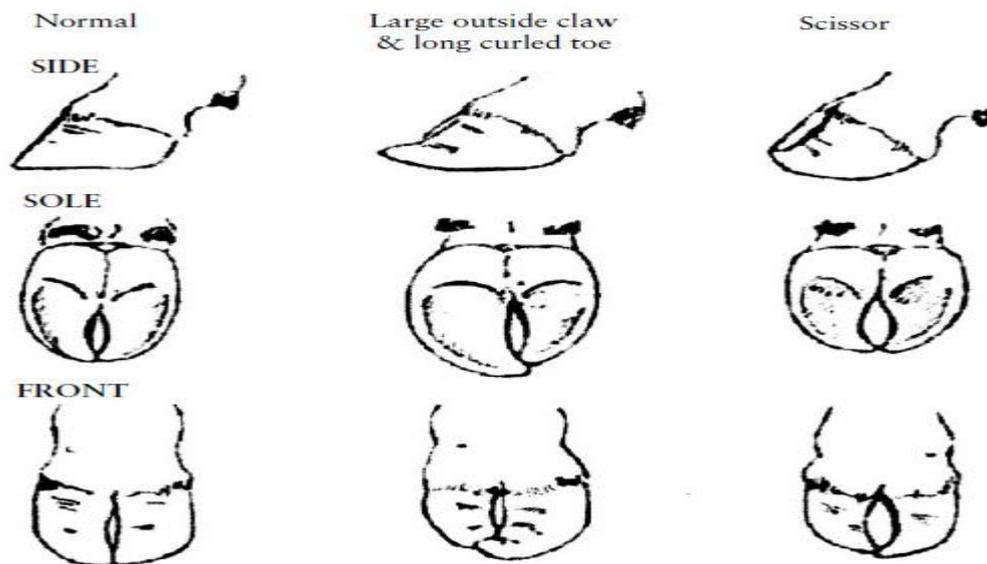
The four legs should be wide apart with adequate length of cannon bone and toes pointing straight ahead.



The pastern should be neither too straight nor too springy but somewhere in between.



The foot itself should be normal not scissor shaped or with uneven claws.



4. Frame:

The average height of a mature Droimeann bull is approx. 135cm (54") at the shoulder. He should be a good length with a wide deep body. It is important that a bull should have a wide rump. A good chest width is desirable. The top line should be level right through to the tail setting. The slope of the rump should be level and from a side view the thigh muscle should be well developed and at a right angle to the top line. A well fleshed bull is preferred as they are easier to maintain and better for meat production.

5. Scrotum and testicles:

Two testicles of even size should be present in the scrotum sac. As testicle size is directly related to fertility the larger the testicles the better. A mature bull of two to four years should have a testicle circumference of 32 to 34 cm or more. Studies have shown that bulls with larger testicles produce daughters of higher fertility. At rest the penis should retract fully into the sheath.

## Division of the Herd book

The Herd book is divided into a main and supplementary section.

### Main Section:

To qualify for entry in the main section of the herd book animals shall:

- a. Be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the Irish Droimeann herd book or any other EU approved Droimeann herd book.
- b. Be identified at birth according to the rules of the herd book.
- c. Have a pedigree established according to the rules of the herd book.

The Society is availing of the derogation available as outlined in point 2, Article 1 of Commission Decision 84/419/EEC for a period initially of one year in the establishment of the herd book. A review will be carried out after the first year. Details of those animals to be considered as pure-bred and eligible to be entered directly into the main section are as follows:

### Amendment as at 07/01/2018

The period of derogation has been extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 due to unforeseen delays in setting up the herd book.

#### Males:

Due to the scarcity of pure Droimeann bulls and conscious of the need to avoid in-breeding any male that is 100% pure or that has been identified by the society as being 85 % and above and conforming to breed standards will be allowed into the main section.

### Amendment as at 03/12/2017:

All bulls 75% and greater will be regarded as pure

All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as PED

#### Females:

Any female animal that is over 95% pure automatically qualifies for entry into the main herd book. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as PED

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

- I. 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 breed characteristics. Animals in this class are recommended for breeding.
- II. 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 described above. However, the animal does not meet the criteria for Class I, as he/she may be identified as being a carrier of a genetic defect or have undesirable breed characteristics. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as PE2
- III. Animals may be re-classified within the main section of the herdbook at any period during their lifetime.

### Supplementary Section:

To qualify for entry in the supplementary section of the herd book animals shall:

- i Be identified in accordance to the herd book rules
- ii Be judged to conform to the breed standard
- iii Have a minimum performance criteria as laid down by these rules as follows

The Supplementary Section shall be divided into four sections: Section A, B, C and D.

**Supplementary Section A:** To qualify for entry in Section A of the Supplementary section of the herd book a female must be 85% to 94% Droimeann by a fully registered Droimeann bull. Any females out of a grade B cow and a fully registered bull will be eligible into section A. Females in this Section shall be denoted by 'A' after its herd book number on their pedigree certificates. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as ASR

**Supplementary Section B:** To qualify for entry in Section B of the Supplementary section of the herdbook a female must be 70% – 84% Droimeann. Any females out of a grade C cow and a fully registered bull will be eligible into section B. Females in this Section shall be denoted by 'B' after its herd book number on their pedigree certificates. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as BSR

**Supplementary Section C:** To qualify for entry in Section C of the Supplementary section of the herd book a female must be 45% – 69% Droimeann. Any females out of a grade D cow and a fully registered bull will be eligible into section C. This section will be closed on 31/12/2019. Females in this Section shall be denoted by 'C' after its herd book number on their pedigree certificates. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as CSR

#### **Supplementary Section D:**

To qualify for entry in Section D of the Supplementary section of the herd book a female must be 10% – 44% Droimeann. This section will remain open up until the end of the 2016 genomic sample collection. Females in this Section shall be denoted by 'D' after its herd book number on their pedigree certificates. All animals in this section of the herd book will be denoted as DSR

### Amendment as at 28/02/2020:

Under the derogation as outlined in point 2 of Chapter III, Part 1 of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 all female animals that are sired by a Droimeann bull of 75% + purity (regarded as Ped) be allowed to enter the supplementary section D of the herd book provided they are 30% or greater in purity when genomically tested. This derogation will end on the 31<sup>st</sup>/12/2021.

*Grading Up: A female animal whose dam (Section A) and maternal grand dam (Section B) are registered in a supplementary section of the herd book and whose sire and two grandsires are*

*entered in the main section of the herd book or of another EU approved herd book of the breed shall be eligible for entry in the main section of the herd.*

Any animal found to have a genetic defect or genetic peculiarities following linear assessment or herd inspection shall have details of such published on its pedigree certificate or any other official documents provided by the Society.

An animal from another Member State shall be entered in the class of the herd book whose criteria it meets.

### Registration Procedures

1. The herd book will be maintained on the ICBF data base.
2. All calves must be birth notified within 30 days of birth to the society via ICBF animal events
3. All calves must be DNA profiled and parentage proved prior to registration and entry into the herd book. Blood, hair and semen can be used for DNA profiling. The society proposes to use hair as the source for DNA. The cost of the test shall be borne by the owner and paid to the society. The tests will be carried out on behalf of the society by Weatherbys Ireland Ltd. in conjunction with ICBF and Teagasc.
4. On receipt of birth notification certificate all calves which are proposed to be registered will be issued a hair sample kit by the ICBF. Samples are then taken and returned to the society with the fee.
5. Zoological Certificates can only be issued upon request by the owner
6. Samples can be collected by the breeder adhering to the instructions on the hair sample kit.
6. The society will only accept registration from a bona fide member of the society.
7. All calves must be registered in the herd book by the time they are 12 months old by sending in the Society's Animal Registration form (appendix 4), either by the breeder or the owner (where an animal has changed ownership from a breeder a change of ownership form must accompany the registration).
8. All animals submitted for registration must be of the correct breed type.
9. Any animal which is not to be registered for any reason must be made known to the society at the time of birth notification by selecting the appropriate box.
10. Breeders are requested to notify the society of any obvious genetic defect or serious deviations from breed type which may arise.
11. All registrations must be sent to the society together with DNA profiling and correct fees (Also a change of ownership cert to accompany if applicable).
12. A registration can be cancelled by the society at the request of the owner in writing.
13. A cancelled pedigree can only be restored following a full review of the reasons for cancellation by the board of the society.
14. The society must be made aware of change of ownership within 30 days so that it can be transferred in the herd book. This must be done by the vendor and change of ownership form to be signed by the new owner.

15. All animals are identified by their National Identification ear tag number. Any animal for registration must be identified as follows and exactly corresponding to the unique Department of Agriculture cattle passport e.g. IE1234567-1-1234.
16. When an animal is a twin it shall be stated on the pedigree certificate and the sex (M/F) given of which it is a twin.
17. Animal's will be named as follows

**Females:**

Herd Prefix

Cow Name

IE number

**Males:**

Herd Prefix

Bull Name

IE number

18. Birth notification, animal registration and change of ownership forms can be obtained from the society and photo copies can be made as necessary.
19. A schedule of fees applicable on 1 June 2016 is available in Appendix 1. Please contact the office to obtain the most up to date schedule as the Society reserve the right to review and amend fees as appropriate.

**Amendment as at 03/12/2017:**

20. All cattle being registered by an owner but who have not been born in that herd shall not carry the herd prefix but shall be given a pet name beginning with the letter which corresponds to the year of birth

The society has adopted the process as below for naming cattle

- A: 2010 and before
- B: 2011
- C: 2012
- D: 2013
- E: 2014 etc., etc.....

## Breed Conservation Programme

1. To identify all Droimeann cattle and have each genomic-ally tested in order to establish their degree of purity. The first round of this was completed in 2015 and the results are now available. A second round is being done in 2016 in all new Droimeann cattle identified and all calves born into the herd since July 2015 which was the cut-off date for round one sampling. This is being done through the ICBF data base and is being processed by Donnagh Berry Teasgasc, Moorepark
2. A herd book has been compiled and is currently being run by the society however it is due to be handed over to ICBF to be run on their data base. This will make it easier to collate data.
3. With all of this information available it is envisaged that the Droimeann breed will get recognition by the department of agriculture. This will give the breed their own prefix and give them official status. They are currently listed under the Irish male IM prefix. If granted their own prefix the breed would be eligible to qualify for the GLAS scheme.
4. The society has been in contact with NCBC with regards to putting bulls into AI. this would give breeders with small numbers of Droimeann cattle access to pure bulls and will help to maintain genomic diversity and therefore reduce the risk of in-breeding. The society is currently looking into the marketing of hides of Droimeann cattle. Because of their dramatic and unusual colour it is hoped to develop market for this hides in the tourist and hospitality sectors i.e. Killarney national, the Burren visitor centre etc. this would have a twofold benefit in that it will help to promote the breed as well as giving extra financial returns to the breeder.
5. As the Droimeann is the oldest native breed of Irish cattle tracing back in Irish history and focklore it is hoped to develop a niche market for their beef which is marbled thereby giving it a unique flavour and have it on the menu at places of historical interest such as Bunratty castle, Muckross house etc. this will also help to promote the breed.

### Non-Discrimination

In order to comply with the Commission Decision 84/247/EEC the Droimeann Society Ltd declares that there will be no discrimination between members on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, religion, age.

## **Appendix 1: Fees**

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>€</b>         |
|--|------------------|
| Shares in Society  | €100 (voluntary) |
| <b>Society membership (due January 1st of each year)</b>   |                  |
| If paid before 31 <sup>st</sup> of January   | €50              |
| If paid after the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January  | €60              |
| <b>Registration</b>  |                  |
| Registration of herd prefix  | €20              |
| Birth notification within 30 days of   | FREE             |
| Female under 1 year  | €20              |
| Male under 1 year  | €20              |
| <b>Any calf to be registered for breeding purposes must be D.N.A profiled and parentage proved</b> |                  |
| D.N.A profiling and parentage proving  | €30              |
| Change of ownership (This charge to be incurred by the vendor within 30 days of sale)              | €10              |

\*\*All fees subject to review on an annual basis.

## **Appendix 2: Change of Ownership Form**



## **Appendix 3: Application for Membership and Register of Herd Prefix**

DROIMEANN CATTLE SOCIETY LTD.  
Morgan, Askeaton, Co Limerick  
Tel: (087) 4109 978 Email: [TomKeane@live.ie](mailto:TomKeane@live.ie)

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTER OF HERD PREFIX

I, .....

Of .....

hereby apply for membership of Droimeann Cattle Society Limited and I agree to make the payments required by the Rules of the Society and otherwise to be bound thereby.

I, thereby apply for registration of the prefix (not more than two words) for my herd

.....

First choice .....

Second choice.....

Signed: .....

Date:.....

Tel:.....

Mobile: .....

Email.....

MEMBERSHIP FEES - per enclosed fee listing

## **Appendix 4: Animal Registration Form into Herdbook**



Animal Registration  
Form.pdf



## Appendix 5: Pedigree Certificate



Herdbook Cert.pdf

| <b>DROIMEANN CATTLE SOCIETY LTD. - DROIMEANN CATTLE HERDBOOK</b> |              |   |                     |
|--|--------------|---|---------------------|
| Owner:   |              |   | Registration Grade: |
| Breeder:   | Herd:        | Date:   | AI Code:            |
|  | Genome Test: | Identified by Ear Tag No.:  | Born:               |
| Sire:  |              |   |                     |
|  |              |   |                     |
|  |              |   |                     |
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| Dam:   |              |   |                     |
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|  |              |   |                     |
|  |              |   |                     |
| Signature  | Secretary    | In issuing this certificate the society has relied on statements made by or on behalf of the breeder as to the parentage and date of birth of the calf in the notification of its birth of the society. The responsibility for it's accuracy therefore, rest with the breeder and not the society. Droimeann Cattle Society Ltd. Morgans House, Askeaton, Co Limerick, Ireland. Tel: (087) 410 9978 |                     |