

# Herd Classification Policy

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2017

## Authorization

The Bylaws of the Association establish the authority for a program of Herd Classification. The acceptance of an application for classification is at the discretion of the Association and is not a matter of right accorded a member, but is a privilege to be granted or refused at the discretion of the Association.

Matters not covered by these rules shall be administered by the Chief Executive Officer and that decision shall be final.

## Supervision

The Director of Type Evaluations shall have general supervision over the entire Classification Program, and responsibility for interpretation of the classification policy; subject to the rules and regulations set forth herein by the Board of Directors.

## Definition of a Herd

For the purposes of classification, a herd is defined as:

1. All cows housed or managed under a single management system regardless of ownership. *OR*
2. A group of cows among two or more groups housed as a single entity, each with separate DHIA herd code or string numbers and under different ownership. No movement from one ownership group to another is practiced.

## Eligibility and Responsibility of Applicant

Animals must be registered in the Herd Book of the Holstein Association, or be identified on DHIA as being the offspring of a Registered sire. Applied-for animals may be evaluated with such classification scores becoming official after the certificates of identification for such animals are issued.

Cows must have freshened normally within 36 months (based on the first day of the month for the scheduled classification) in order to be eligible to be classified.

All Registered cows in the herd required under the participation program chosen and at or above the RHA% level specified by the applicant must be considered for classification. If sire identified grades are applied for, all sire identified grades, and Registered cows at all levels of RHA% must be considered.

Animals with no sire identification are not eligible for official classification, but may receive linear scores. Sire identified grades are eligible for classification and such scores are used in PTAT calculations. The linear, major breakdowns and final scores of sire-identified grades are made available to the owner, but are considered unofficial and are not permitted for use in advertising. Non Herd Book females recorded with the Holstein Association to fill the ancestral lineage of registered Herd Book animals will be treated the same as sire identified grades. Only scores of Registered animals are official.

**Cows may not be moved into a herd or out of a herd for the purpose of inclusion in or elimination from the herd's classification. Any violation of this policy will be reviewed and is subject to suspension of classification participation.**

If an applicant does not wish to have a cow considered for classification, a program activity change report signed by the owner must be mailed to the Holstein Association or presented to the classifier prior to the beginning of the herd's classification.

No animal shall be eligible for classification if that animal has previously been presented for classification within 60 days (not to include animals marked "Not In Condition"). In cases where animals are unknowingly re-scored in this time frame, the latest score will not be recorded on the performance file of the Holstein Association.

Cows enroute to a consignment sale to which they are consigned are no longer considered regular members of the original herd. They are exempt from classification, with the exception being if such animal is temporarily housed at another herd that classifies while the cow is at that farm providing that both herds are scheduled for classification in the same area program. In such cases, the cow may be classified at the preference of the owner of record.

Cows which have been sold, either publicly or privately which, while in transit, are temporarily being housed in another herd may be classified providing the new owner's herd and the herd in which such cows are being temporarily housed are scheduled for classification during the same area program.

Eligible animals not at the farm the day of classification that are housed at "non-herd" facilities (ET facilities, veterinary college, large animal clinic, etc.) must be reported at the time of application or to the classifier prior to the completion of the herd's classification. Such animals required to be presented as well as non-required

animals will be classified at the discretion of the Holstein Association and will be scheduled for classification only at the Association's convenience.

Any cow owned entirely or partially by the applicant that is housed in a non-classifying herd is subject to classification at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer of the Holstein Association.

## Permanent Classification Scores

Any animal which is five years old or older on the last day of the month of the scheduled classification can receive a permanent score. A permanent score cannot be lowered in future classifications.

## Excellent Ratings and Multiple E Designation

No female may be classified 90 points or more (Excellent) in final score until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the second time and has one completed lactation. No female may be classified greater than 92 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the third time.

Any cow to be classified 95 points or higher in final score must be evaluated by a committee of three classifiers, one of which will be the classifier assigned to the herd's classification. The evaluation of the committee can be completely unannounced and should be completed within 30 days of the herd's classification. No female may be considered for a final score of 95 points or higher until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the third time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. No female may be considered for a final score of 96 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the fourth time and reached the month of her fifth birthday. No female may be considered for 97 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the fifth time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. The applicant is responsible for providing the accurate lactation number for all cows. Those cows freshening less than thirty (30) days prior to their expected calving date will be considered to have a fullterm pregnancy.

Cows may receive Multiple "E" designations if classified Excellent in final score in more than one of the following age brackets:

- |                  |                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1: Up to 6 years | 4: 12 - 15 years                    |
| 2: 6 - 9 years   | 5: 15 - 18 years                    |
| 3: 9 - 12 years  | 6: Any subsequent three year period |

To be eligible for an additional "E", the cow must have calved normally within the last 36 months.

## Classification of Bulls

Males shall be eligible for classification providing they reach one year of age during the month in which the herd is classified. Classification of bulls is optional between 1 and 5 years of age. Bulls 5 years of age or older must be considered for classification as part of the applicant's herd.

Males owned by the applicant which are regular members of another herd or breeding unit shall not be considered as part of the applicant's herd, however such bulls may be transported to the applicant's herd for the purpose of classification or, if convenient to the Association, classified at the herd or breeding unit that houses the bull. Bulls that are leased to an AI unit are considered to be owned by the AI unit for classification purposes.

Sires housed at herds participating in the SET program may be classified if requested by the SET applicant. If one bull is classified at the SET herd, all bulls 5 years of age and older that are owned by the SET participant must be considered for classification.

## Policy for Disputed Classifications

Due to the subjective nature of the evaluations, the Holstein Association assumes no liability regarding the scores assigned for any linear traits, major breakdowns or final score nor does the Association guarantee owner satisfaction regarding such scores.

Applicants may apply for a reclassification when they wish to dispute the herd's classification. The request to reclassify must be made to the Association within seven days of the original classification (classification being disputed). All cows and only those cows offered in the original classification are eligible for reclassification.

At the completion of the reclassification, all animals reclassified will have the scores of their original classification voided. The original fees will be credited to

the applicant's account and a \$400 herd fee, the original per animal fee plus \$2 per animal will be billed for the reclassification. Classifier travel expenses will not be charged. All scores for the reclassification are official.

## Termination of Classification

In the event that a classification is terminated before its completion, the evaluations given up to the point of termination will be voided and applications for future classifications will not be accepted by the Association until favorable action by the Executive Committee. No fees will be refunded.

## Report of Herd Classification

The Classifier's Report of Classification will include the classification of all animals in the herd presented for classification. This will be the only official list of individual classifications for the herd. A receipt listing the animals classified will be left at the farm. In case of any discrepancy between the receipt and stamped certificates, the information on the original receipt is official.

## Certificates Issued

All classifications will be recorded in the Holstein Association's Performance System. Participants who enroll in the Classic and Standard programs with 10 or more females above the specified RHA% classified will receive certificates showing the average Breed Age Average (BAA). Classifications of sire-identified grades will not be summarized. Other summary information may be provided at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The official herd BAA will be calculated as the average of the individual cow BAA's. The lowest ten percent of the individual cow BAA's will be excluded from the herd BAA. Cows for which an owner has requested a program activity change after classification but before records from that classification are processed will be included in the herd's inventory for BAA calculation purposes. The individual BAA's for these cows will be included in the herd BAA calculation only if they rank in the top ninety percent of the herd. Optional cows classified but with a RHA% below the level specified at the time of application will not be included in the calculation of a herd's BAA. The classification of cows not included in the herd BAA calculation will be officially recorded for all other uses.

Females that have been previously scored within 60 days of the applicant's classification will have BAA's entered that reflect their BAA at their previous age and score.

Non-required females not presented for classification in the Standard program will have BAA's figured based on their previous age and score.

Other animals exempt from classification as previously defined (cows enroute to a consignment sale or housed at a "non-herd" facility) will have their BAA's figured based on their previous age and score.

## Application

Applications for any of the participation programs in Area Scheduling must be received 60 days prior to the beginning of the month of classification. Applications for Non-Area Scheduling will be coordinated through the classification scheduling department. Area Scheduling will receive top priority.

Late applications (received after the 60 day advance application deadline) may be accepted. An additional fee of \$100 will be charged for late applications.

A \$2 per animal charge and the entire herd fee pertaining to the type of enrollment is required at the time of application. This deposit can be paid when the application is submitted or billed to the applicant's account.

The actual deposit charges or \$300 (whichever is less) will be charged for applications that are withdrawn within 30 days of the scheduled beginning of the program. The assignment of classifiers is final and cannot be negotiated.

The applicant shall provide the name, address, telephone number, and location of the farm. All animals at or above the applicant's chosen RHA% will be considered to determine the required animals for the selected program option. The RHA%

level used will default to 87% if the applicant does not stipulate a specific level. A listing of all eligible animals in the herd must be provided. This listing should include the registration/identification number of each animal and its dam, the date of birth, sex, freshening date and lactation number. This listing should also include all eligible females that are expected to freshen for the first time through the month of the scheduled classification. Applicants enrolled on DHI test are required to have their herd inventory generated by their DRPC or by providing a copy of their most recent DHIA test sheets. Applicants may have this information generated through herd inventories provided by their DRPC by signing the required release form. The applicant is requested to choose whether their cows are to be listed by barn name, barn number or computer control number on the herd inventories. If no preference is indicated, the animals will be listed by barn name except for herds testing through the Agritech or Provo DRPC's.

## Participation Program Policies

(Effective July 1, 2001)

**Classic Program:** All eligible animals in the herd are required to be presented in this program.

**Standard Program:** Dry cows, animals (male or female) with permanent scores, and males less than five years of age are not required to be presented in this program. All other eligible animals must be presented. Optional animals can be presented at the option of the owner.

**Limited Program:** Previously unscored females in milk and previously unscored males over five years of age are required to be presented. All other animals are optional. Optional animals can be presented at the option of the owner. In addition, all other cows in milk which are less than 43 months of age and have not previously been assigned a score usable for genetic evaluations are required.

**Introductory Program:** Available only to breeders who have not classified within the past four years. First and second lactation cows in milk and nonpermanent males over five years of age are required to be presented. All other animals are optional. Optional animals may be presented at the choice of the owner.

**Breeders' Choice:** The owner is allowed to select which females and males are to be presented. There are no required animals.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the classifier with the most recent freshening dates on all cows in the herd (required or optional). It is also the responsibility of the applicant to report to the classifier all additions and deletions to the original herd inventory provided to the classifier. A copy of the original herd inventory will be sent to each participant prior to the classification. Animals will be marked as Required or Optional depending on enrollment type, freshening date and classification history. Prior to the beginning of the classification, the applicant must determine which Optional animals will be presented.

**Scores assigned to optional animals in all programs are not used for genetic evaluations.**

## Scheduling Option Policies

(Effective July 1, 2001)

**Area Scheduling:** Each of the Participation Programs are offered during regionalized, pre-scheduled periods that occur every seven months.

**Non-Area Scheduling:** Non-Area Scheduling allows herd owners to participate in classification at times other than when Area Scheduling is being offered.



**Holstein Association USA, Inc.**

1 Holstein Place, PO Box 808, Brattleboro, VT 05302-0808

©2017 2111994 1M 12/2017