

Agenda item 8.0

Pedigree Breeds Herd Inspection Protocol

1. Background

Several UK Pedigree Breed Societies have expressed their willingness to join forces with regards to Society pedigree herd inspections. This gives a number of advantages to the sector.

1. Breeders often have more than one breed. It makes little sense for one society to inspect and another not.
2. Better sharing of costs
3. Unified inspections communicate a strong message to industry and drives credibility.

Breeds engaged in the process thus far are:

Aberdeen-Angus, Beef Shorthorn, Charolais, Hereford, Simmental, South Devon

A core of the concept is to align society byelaws to standardise the process. This reduces ambiguity at inspection time, ensures that inspectors are working to a known process and strengthens the overall concept.

Board adoption of the framework shared by Iain Kerr of the Simmental Society has been successful across the named breeds, allowing the concept to progress.

2. Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding has been suggested between the societies to cement cooperation and as a means of demonstrating to industry alignment on this important matter. A draft MoU is to be prepared prior to the PBSG meeting on September 21st, 2023.

3. Inspections Process

The inspection process has worked through from the byelaw/instruction document prepared by the Simmental Society.

Communication between societies re, inspections.

Foul play vs. nth calf?

4. Potential Inspections Panel

To maintain independence and ensure a countrywide spread, the suggestion is the panel consists of 10 – 12 inspectors.

Inspectors proposed thus far are:

- Mary Reynolds
- Richard Rettie
- Stuart Renton
- Richard Davies
- Ian Millar
- *Charlie MacLean*
- *Roy Crockett*
- *Brian Wills*

- *Ian Davidson*

5. Comms Plan

This is an important initiative for the UK beef pedigree sector to maintain high standards and ensure that the playing field is level for all breeders.

A strong comms plan is required to ensure that all members are informed and to maintain credibility in the process.

Appendix 1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEDIGREE BREED SOCIETIES

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEDIGREE HERD INSPECTION GROUP

Date:

Parties:

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") is entered into between the following parties:

1. [Name of Pedigree Breed Society 1], a [Type of Organization] incorporated under the laws of [Country], with its registered office located at [Address] (hereinafter referred to as "Society 1").
2. [Name of Pedigree Breed Society 2], a [Type of Organization] incorporated under the laws of [Country], with its registered office located at [Address] (hereinafter referred to as "Society 2").

Background:

The parties acknowledge the importance of maintaining the integrity of information used in pedigreed cattle breeds. Recognizing the mutual interest in promoting breed standards, data integrity and animal welfare, *Society 1 and Society 2 etc.* wish to collaborate in establishing a Pedigree Herd Inspection Group (hereinafter referred to as "Inspection Group") to conduct inspections and assessments of pedigreed livestock herds.

Purpose:

The purpose of this MOU is to outline the terms and conditions under which the parties agree to establish and operate the Inspection Group to ensure the quality, health, and adherence to breed standards of pedigreed livestock herds.

Terms of Agreement:

1. **Formation of Inspection Group:**
 - *Society 1, Society 2 etc.* will collaborate to form the Inspection Group, composed of qualified and knowledgeable individuals in the respective breed standards and livestock management.
 - The Inspection Group will operate as an independent body, without direct interference from either Society.
2. **Composition of Management of Inspection Group:**
 - The Inspection Group shall consist of [Number] members, with an equal representation from each Society.
 - Members of the Inspection Group will be appointed by their respective Societies based on their expertise and experience.
3. **Composition of Inspection Group:**
 - The Inspection Group will appoint independent inspectors drawn from a pool across the UK.
 - Inspectors will state any and all conflicts of interest prior to conducting any inspections.
4. **Inspection Procedures:**
 - The Inspection Group will utilise the standardised inspection procedures and guidelines as prepared by the Simmental Society and adopted into each Society's byelaws

- Inspections will be conducted both randomly and scheduled as determined collaboratively by the Societies.

5. Reporting and Records:

- The Inspection Group will maintain detailed records of each inspection, including observations, findings, and recommendations.
- Inspection reports will be provided to the respective herd owners and the Societies for review.

6. Decision-Making:

- Decisions will be arrived at via the means detailed in the agreed byelaw additions.
- In cases of disagreement, the parties will work together to find an amicable resolution.

7. Confidentiality:

- All information related to inspections, herd assessments, and decision-making processes shall be treated as confidential by both Societies and the members of the Inspection Group.

8. Financial Arrangements:

- The parties will discuss and agree upon the funding arrangements for the Inspection Group's activities, including costs related to inspections, travel, and administrative expenses.

Duration and Termination:

This MOU shall come into effect on the date of execution and shall remain in force for a period of [Number of Years]. Either party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice [Number of Months] in advance.

Governing Law:

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of [Country]. Any disputes arising from this MOU shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of [Country].

Entire Agreement:

This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the parties concerning the subject matter herein and supersedes all prior understandings, agreements, and representations, whether oral or written.

Signatures:

Signed for and on behalf of [Name of Pedigree Breed Society 1]:

Signed for and on behalf of [Name of Pedigree Breed Society 2]: