

● Brown Swiss
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years ago (1954-58) the Brown Swiss Association had a program of Provisional Registration but because of its complexity, only a few animals qualified.

At the Guernsey Association Annual Meeting on May 3, it was announced that the Board accepted the idea of an open Herd Book and urged the president to appoint a committee to study

it thoroughly and to work closely with the PDCA in the study. Latest available USDA figures show about 10,000 unregistered Brown Swiss on DHIA. Of the dairymen surveyed who own these cows, around 50% of them indicated an interest in a program of identification leading to eventual registration.

The special committee concluded that for any program to be successful it must be simple, easy to understand and not involve excessive periods of time for animals to qualify. At the

same time, it must insure the continued improvement of the breed and protect against the registration of inferior animals. It must not involve excessive association expense and must generate enough revenue to make it economically worthwhile.

Here's how the program would work:

Step 1. Any dairyman owning unregistered Brown Swiss could apply to have his animal identified. Any female of characteristic Brown Swiss type and color

would be eligible for identification by having an approved ear tag placed in her ear and by being inspected by an official representative of the Brown Swiss Association. The ear tag, which would become her official identification number, would be recorded in the Association office and an official identification certificate issued.

Each animal entering the program must first be identified. No skipping or by-passing of

this step will be permitted. For example: If a cow to be identified has daughters in the herd sired by a registered Brown Swiss bull, they also must be identified and will not be permitted to pass directly into Step 2. Even if the cow is carrying a heifer calf at the time she is identified, this calf will not be permitted to go directly into Step 2, but also must be identified under Step 1.

Step 2. After a female is identified, any of her female offspring sired by a registered Brown Swiss bull will be eligible for registry in the Identity Enrollment Herd Book. These animals must be tattooed and the present registry rules pertaining to color will apply. All animals must be tattooed and Book will receive coded registration numbers and the prefix I.E. must be used preceding all names. Animals in the Identity Enrollment Herd Book will be eligible to participate in the breed improvement programs of production testing, type classification and showing.

Step 3. When females in the Identity Enrollment Herd Book meet the standards for certification that are to be established for registered females, they, too, will be eligible to have the word "Certified" stamped on their Identity Enrollment Certificates. The requirements for certification will be based on Cow Indexes as soon as these indexes are available for all registered cows on official DHIA-DHIR test and on official type classification ratings. Offspring of "Certified" I.E. dams sired by registered Brown Swiss bulls, would be eligible to be registered in the regular Official Herd Book.

In order to protect the integrity of the Official Brown Swiss Herd Book, the Board of Directors, through their appointed representatives, reserve the right to cancel certificates on any animals in this program that in their sole judgment do not meet the qualifications desired.

The female offspring of Identity Enrollment animals that reach the level of production and the standard for type to receive the "Certified" designation, will have performance ratings above at least 50 per cent of the animals now in the Official Herd Book

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