



Canadian Highland Cattle Society  
Société Canadienne des éleveurs de bovins Highland

## WELCOME TO THE FOLD!

Information kit.

Natasha Beliveau, Sec.

[highland@chcs.ca](mailto:highland@chcs.ca)



## **HIGHLANDERS**

*Hardy-Gentle-Thrifty-Profitable*  
*COMUNN CRODH GAIDHEALACH*  
*CHANADA*

# **The Canadian Highland Cattle Society** **La Société canadienne des éleveurs de bovins Highland**

Natasha Beliveau, secretary-manager  
7 rue Stanley, Stanstead, QC, J0B 3E0  
1-819-349-0604

E-mail: [highland@chcs.ca](mailto:highland@chcs.ca) Website: <http://www.chcs.ca>

### **WELCOME TO THE FOLD!**

As new owners of Highland cattle you will be interested to know that you have automatically become members of the Society free of charge! This introductory membership will extend until the end of the membership year, during which it is hoped you will have time to acquaint yourself with the world of Highland cattle. You will receive all mailings to regular members for the remainder of this year as well as other privileges enjoyed by our members including being able to register and transfer animals for half the fee charged to non-members. It is our hope that you will continue in your membership after this introductory period as a fully paid member.

Here's your New Member's Package, which I hope you will find helpful and informative. It includes:

#### **\*Tips on Tattooing & Tagging**

A very important part of raising registered Highland cattle, which includes DNA identification of bulls. You should also go to <http://www.canadaid.ca>, or in Quebec <http://www.agri-tracabilite.qc.ca> for information on the new Government regulations for tagging cattle.

#### **\*The Kyloe Cry**

The Kyloe Cry is much more than just a breed newsletter, it is the link that unites all Highland breeders in Canada.

#### **\*Highlands in Canada & Highland Beef Brochures**

These are brochures that are produced by the Society. They are available to our members at cost to use in the promotion of the Highland Breed.

#### **\*Sample Registration Form**

Extra copies are available from The Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7.

For more forms available from CLRC log on to <http://www.clrc.ca>.

Our website at <http://www.chcs.ca> is also full of useful information including links to other associations and folds, semen available for AI and items available through The Kyloe Shop. It also contains an up-to-date membership list.

I trust that you will get a great deal of enjoyment from the Highland Breed, and from membership in the Society. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, I will be happy to help.

Warmest regards,

Natasha Beliveau  
Secretary-Manager



**The Canadian Highland Cattle Society**  
***La Société canadienne des éleveurs de bovins***  
***Highland***

**HIGHLANDERS**

*Hardy-Gentle-Thrifty-Profitable*  
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**BEFORE YOU BUY**

If you are buying (or think you are buying) registered stock, **do not buy an animal without a bill of sale** which specifies the name and registration number of the animal. The seller must transfer the registration paper to the name of the buyer at the time of sale. i.e. send the original registration paper to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation or CLRC in Ottawa with the required fee. If this is not done, the animal loses its registered status. A few cases have come to light in the past in which the seller misrepresented his animal as being purebred. In these cases, the buyer assumed the animals were registered only to discover later that they were not registered because the seller never had the papers in his name in the first place.

Also, all breeds of cattle must be tagged using CCIA approved tags as per the Canadian Food Inspection Agency(CFIA). Please go to [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca) for more information, Quebec members go to [www.agri-tracabilite.qc.ca](http://www.agri-tracabilite.qc.ca). The CCIA Program is an industry initiated and established trace back system designed for the containment and eradication of animal disease, so **do not** buy or accept an animal without this identification.

When selling an animal that is not eligible for registration, the seller should indicate this on the bill of sale so that both parties understand the status of the animal. If an animal is registered, but the owner decides to sell it "without papers", he must indicate this on the bill of sale and return the original registration paper to the CLRC in Ottawa.

If you are in doubt about this matter when making arrangements to buy an animal, please contact the breed office for advice, (Natasha Beliveau, secretary, 1-819-349-0604) before finalizing your purchase. It is certainly fine to buy an unregistered animal as long as you know that it is unregistered and can never be registered in the future. This information is aimed at avoiding misunderstanding and subsequent disappointment.

**Each registered Highland must be tattooed by the owner at birth before the animal reaches 8 months of age, is weaned or is sold. If this is not done, the animal loses its registered status. Please verify that the animal you intend to buy is correctly tattooed and tagged.**

## **HERD IDENTIFICATION LETTERS AND HERD NAME**

Before registering an animal born on your farm you must tattoo it. The tattoo consists of a series of letters which identify your herd, a letter representing the year the animal was born and a sequential number to identify the particular calf. For example, if a herd has the herd identification letters "ABC". The first calf born on this farm in 2024 will be tattooed ABC 1M, the second calf... ABC 2M and so on. The "M" is the letter assigned by the CLRC to represent 2024 births, "ABC" indicating that the calf was born to a cow which was in the ownership of that farm and the number "1" indicating the first calf born in 2024. The calf sequence number is placed between the series of herd letters and the year letter as a means of separating the letter portions of the tattoo by the numerical digit for purposes of clarity. Calves born in 2024 were tattooed with the letter "M", 2025 with the letter "N" and so on. ". So in 2025, the tattoo letter is "N".

The following letters are not used to designate year of birth in Canada: "I, O, Q, V

To obtain herd identification letters for your herd you must complete the enclosed form and send it with \$12.00 plus GST to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation in Ottawa. Each set of herd letters is unique, so the CLRC will confirm the letters are not being used by anyone else before approving them.

When naming animals born on your farm it is customary to use a herd affix which is called your "Registered Herd Name". To register a herd name you must again apply to the CLRC by completing the enclosed form and sending \$12.00 plus GST. A herd name can be your farm name or not; you may come up with something of your choice. For example, a farm named "Red Barn Farm" may use the herd name "Red Barn". Animals being born and being registered on this farm will have a given name sporting the herd name, for example, Red Barn Moira" or "Moira of Red Barn".

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation  
2417 Holly Lane  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1V 0M7  
Tel: 613-731-7110  
Fax: 613-731-0704  
Website: [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca)

## Guide for a contract of sale of purebred animals.

### **Highland Cattle Contract of Sale**

**Identification of seller** .....

.....

.....

(Name of the current owner of the animal as it appears on the registration certificate)

**Identification of Buyer** .....

.....

.....

(If the buyer is a member of the Society, please give the member's name and identification number. If the buyer is not a member of the Society, please give the name under which the buyer wishes to purchase the animal.)

Description of the animal(s) sold:

Name of the animal	Tattoo	Registration number	Price
<b>Total</b>			

The animal is being sold with registration paper:      Yes ☐ .....      No ☐ .....

Other conditions : (transportation, date of delivery etc).....

.....

**There is no livestock security interest in the listed livestock or in the dam(s) of the listed livestock.**

**It is the responsibility of the seller to permit the verification of the tattoo at the time of the transaction.**

**It is the responsibility of the buyer to verify the tattoo at the time of the transaction.**

Seller' signature: .....

Buyer' signature: .....

Date of transaction : .....

Please complete two copies, one for the seller and one for the buyer.



**2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP**



(1) The name under which you apply for new membership is the ownership in which all your animals are be registered. Please do not confuse this with your herd name, which is to be used for naming animals only.

(2) All your applications for registration and transfer are be completed in the exact same name as indicated on your application for membership. When you purchase an animal, please be sure that the correct name is indicated on the application for transfer. Males may be transferred to a joint ownership if you own the animal in partnership with another member or non-member.

(3) If you have purchased recorded or registered animals already and they have been transferred to your ownership by this office, then we ask you to check your ownership on the certificates. The ownership of the females must be exactly the same as the ownership of your herd as indicated on your application for membership. For example, if you were to indicate "John & June Smith" on your application for membership, then the females which you have already purchased must be registered in the name of "John & June Smith". Females which are registered in the ownership of John Smith only or June Smith only or any farm name or any company name or any partnership which includes persons in addition to John & June Smith are not considered to be in the correct ownership.

(4) If you find that some or all of your females are not in the correct ownership, then it will be necessary to transfer them. You may also wish to transfer males as well.

- (a) This can be done by completing an application for transfer for each animal in exactly the same name as indicated on your application for membership.
- (b) The applications for transfer are be signed by the person or persons whose name or names last appear on the certificates. If the last name recorded on the certificate is a farm or company, then a person authorized to sign on behalf of that farm or company is to sign the application for transfer.
- (c) In addition, the transfer date to be indicated on an application for transfer for a particular female is important and it should be prior to the birth date of any unrecorded offspring born from that animal which you owned at birth and which you intend to record or register in the future.
- (d) The completed and signed applications for transfer and the corresponding certificates of registration or recordation are then to be submitted to this office with your application for membership and a remittance sufficient to cover the membership and transfer fees. Please consult the current schedule of fees to determine the correct transfer fees. Please indicate "NO FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION INVOLVED" on each of your applications for transfer if this is the case. Some associations offer a reduced transfer fee.

(5) The name, which you indicate on your application for membership designates the ownership of your herd. While it is possible to change the name, the procedure involves transferring all your animals. If this becomes necessary in the future, please contact this office for complete directions.

(6) In the event that you would like to register animals in different names, for example, some in the name of "John & June Smith" and some in the name of "John Smith & Sons", you should consider having a membership for each name.

(7) If you follow the above instructions very carefully, you will avoid many of the problems and delays encountered by new members.



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 0M7 CANADA

MEMBERSHIP IS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR AND IS DUE JANUARY 1ST EACH YEAR  
unless specified differently in the association by-laws.

Breed Association \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID No., if known \_\_\_\_\_  
If for a partnership, company or incorporated organization, give correct name thereof.

Farm Name, if different \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_, (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ Your DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ (Junior Members only)  
Day Month Year

If you own a registered animal, indicate the name (list only one) \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_

I/We do hereby apply for membership and do hereby agree to conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the said organization.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant or Person authorized to sign Signature of Person authorized to vote

I/We request that the following **NOT** be published on the CLRC website:

(Please check applicable boxes):

Address ☐ Phone & Fax ☐ E-mail Address ☐ Website Address ☐

OPTIONAL ☐ **APPLICATION FOR TATTOO COMBINATION**  
REQUIRED ☐ (tattooed breeds only - Max. 4 letter combination excluding Q)

FIRST CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_ THIRD CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL ☐ **APPLICATION FOR HERD NAME OR PREFIX**  
REQUIRED ☐ (to be used in naming your animals)

FIRST CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

THIRD CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

## FEES

Consult Current Fee Schedule

Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tattoo Fee .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Herd Name/  
Prefix Fee ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Total ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HST/GST (Canada) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total ..... \$=====

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

VISA ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ (Check Fee Schedule for List of Allowed Credit Cards, if any)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature **X** \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation  
**THE CANADIAN HIGHLAND CATTLE SOCIETY**

**FEE SCHEDULE**  
**Effective April 1, 2013**

**ADD 13% HST TO ALL FEES FOR ONTARIO, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND NEWFOUNDLAND,  
ADD 14% HST FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, ADD 15% HST FOR NOVA SCOTIA  
ADD 5% GST FOR ALL OTHER PROVINCES**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The annual membership and service fees of the members of the Society, according to the respective classes of membership, are as follows:

1. Honorary Life Members .....	Nil
2. Active Life Membership:	
admitted to membership prior to January 20, 1986 .....	\$25.00 Voluntary annual service fee
admitted to membership on or after January 20, 1986 .....	\$25.00 Annual service fee
admitted to membership on or after January 1, 2008 .....	\$1200.00 - \$30.00 Annual service fee
3. Annual Members .....	\$60.00 per year
4. Junior Members .....	\$12.00 per year
5. Non-Resident Life Membership .....	
admitted to membership prior to January 20, 1986 .....	\$25.00 Voluntary annual service fee
admitted to membership on or after January 20, 1986 .....	\$25.00 Annual service fee
admitted to membership on or after January 1, 2008 .....	\$1200.00 - \$36.00 Annual service fee
6. Non-Resident Annual Membership .....	\$72.00 per year

**Note: All fees below are DOUBLE member rates for Associate & Non-Members**

**REGULATION NO. NINE**

**1. Animal Herd Book:** As fixed by the Board of Directors.

**2. REGISTRATION OF ANIMALS**

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Non-Members</b>
2.1 Animals 0-24 months of age .....	30.00	\$ 60.00
2.2 Animals twenty-four months of age and over with parental verification .....	90.00	180.00
2.3 An Imported Animal .....	60.00	120.00
2.4 Animals produced by embryo or fertilized ovum transplant, in addition to the applicable fee, a surcharge of .....	12.00	24.00
2.5 Animals produced by imported embryo or fertilized ovum transplant, in addition to the applicable fee, a surcharge of .....	18.00	36.00

**3. Recording of Imported Embryos and Fertilized Ova**

3.1 Recorded at time of registration of calf .....	18.00	36.00
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**4. Transfer of Registration of Animals:**

4.1 Transferred within 60 days of date of delivery .....	36.00	72.00
4.2 Transferred more than 60 days from date of delivery .....	50.00	100.00

**5. Transfer of Registration of Animals for Export**

5.1 Transferred within 60 days of date of delivery .....	60.00	120.00
5.2 Transferred more than 60 days from date of delivery .....	120.00	240.00

**6. Transfer of Record of Ownership of Embryos and Fertilized Ova**

6.1 Transferred at time of registration of calf .....	18.00	36.00
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**7. Transfer of Record of Ownership of Embryos and Fertilized Ova for Export**

7.1 Transferred within 60 days of date of sale:		
per unit .....	24.00	48.00
per flush .....	90.00	180.00
7.2 Transferred more than 60 days from date of sale:		
per unit .....	48.00	96.00
per flush .....	180.00	360.00



	Members	Non-Members
<b><u>8. Bulk Transfers.</u></b>		
The gratuitous transfer of an entire herd (including semen, embryos and fertilized ova)		
8.1 by inheritance, through death;.....		
8.2 by gift;.....		
8.3 to a son or daughter by a parent or parents, or a person acting in the legal place of a parent or parents ( <i>in loco parentis</i> );.....		
8.4 to a single continuing partner, on the dissolution of a family partnership;.....		
8.5 from single ownership to joint or undivided multiple ownership, within a family; or		
8.6 to a spouse, in the case of a matrimonial settlement in a legal separation or a divorce:		
Transferred without issuance of individual registration certificates.....	120.00	240.00
Transferred with reissuance of individual registration certificates.....	the applicable fees provided for regular transactions	the applicable fees provided for regular transactions
<b><u>9. Gratuitous Transfers of Animals</u></b>		
9.1 Per animal.....	12.00	24.00
<b><u>10. Registration of Imported Animals with Names Exceeding the Prescribed Length</u></b>		
The fee shall be prescribed, <i>ad hoc</i> , by the Registrar.....		
<b><u>11. Registration and Transfer of Herd Name</u></b>		
11.1 Registration.....	12.00	24.00
11.2 Transfer		
11.2.1 in the case of bulk transfer of entire herd.....	12.00	24.00
11.2.2 in all other cases.....	120.00	240.00
<b><u>12. Registration and Transfer of Tattoo Letters</u></b>		
12.1 Registration.....	12.00	24.00
12.2 Transfer.....	12.00	24.00
<b><u>13. Registration of Leases and Loans</u></b>		
13.1 Within 60 days of date of delivery of animal(s).....	24.00	48.00
13.2 More than 60 days from date of delivery of animal(s).....	36.00	72.00
<b><u>14. Duplicate Certificates</u></b>		
Per Unit.....	12.00	24.00
<b><u>15. Tabulated Pedigrees</u></b>		
15.1 To 3 generations.....	12.00	24.00
15.2 To 4 generations.....	18.00	36.00
15.3 To 5 generations.....	24.00	48.00
<b><u>16. DNA Genotype Kit</u></b>	54.00	108.00
<b><u>17. Applications Rejected by Registrar</u></b>		
Per unit.....	12.00	24.00

**ANY TRANSACTION MARKED RUSH (EXCEPT THOSE FOR EXPORT) WILL INCUR A RUSH FEE OF \$9.00**

ALL REMITTANCES MUST BE MADE **PAYABLE TO THE CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION. DO NOT REMIT CASH.**  
Address all correspondence to: CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION, 2417 HOLLY LANE, OTTAWA, ON. K1V 0M7  
Tel (877) 833-7110 or (613)731-7110 FAX (613)731-0704 e mail: [clrc@clrc.ca](mailto:clrc@clrc.ca) Internet: [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca)

# Genetic Identification

Be sure to buy a bull with his DNA test done and his result wrote on his certificate.

The DNA test is on the charge of the seller.

**All breeding bulls born on May 10, 2000 or later  
must have DNA identification on file with the CLRC  
before transfer of ownership OR before their progeny  
can be registered.**

**Don't be caught sleeping on this or you will not be able  
to register your calves!**



# Genetic Identification VS Parental Verification

Every 75<sup>th</sup> calve registered at the CLRC will have to be DNA tested for the parental verification to ensure the purebred of our breed.

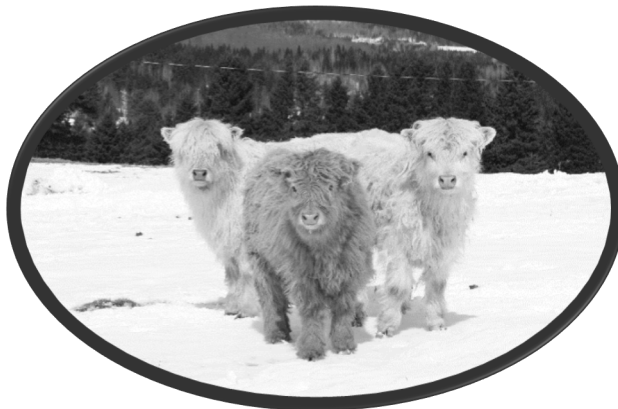
## **Genetic Identification**

**is the analysis or typing of the genetic  
information of one animal.**

## **Parental Verification:**

**requires genetic identification from three  
animals: sire, dam and offspring.**

**These analyses are then compared in order to  
establish the parentage of the offspring.**





## APPLICATION FOR DNA GENETIC MARKER TESTS

NB. For breeds not registered with CLRC, please attach a copy of the animal's certificate. If the animal is not registered, please attach a copy of the certificates for all possible registered parents.

**SELECT TESTS:** DNA ☐ DNA Parentage Verification: Profile Only ☐ Both Parents ☐  
Sire Only ☐ Dam Only ☐

**G6S** (Dairy Goats Only) ☐ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample Type** (select one): Hair ☐ Blood ☐ Semen ☐ Other – Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Breed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Animal Name :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Register #** \_\_\_\_\_

If not registered, specify the association you will be registering the animal with \_\_\_\_\_

**Sex:** Male ☐ Female ☐

**Tattoo:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Microchip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ear Tag** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year) \_\_\_\_\_

Possible Sires to be checked Names (List additional sires on reverse side)	Regist. #	Check if DNA Profile completed	DNA Case # (if known)
Possible Dams to be checked Names (List additional dams on reverse side)	Regist. #	Check if DNA Profile completed	DNA Case # (if known)

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ -Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this form with the fees to CLRC. Refer to your association fee schedule for the current fees and the association regulations for the DNA requirements. Certain sample types may not be accepted by the lab depending on the species of animal.

**HAIR SAMPLES MAY NOW BE SUBMITTED TO CLRC WITH THIS FORM** if you are a Canadian resident testing at Maxxam Analytics, GenServe Laboratories, Delta Genomics and VGL Laboratories. **SEE REVERSE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.**

If a Hair Sample is not enclosed, send the kit to me by: ☐ Mail, or ☐ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

or ☐ E-Mail – My E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**N.B.** In order to save time, Hair samples may now be submitted with this application **if you are a Canadian resident and the testing is to be done at Maxxam Analytics, Guelph, Ontario, GenServe Laboratories, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Delta Genomics, Edmonton, Alberta or VGL Laboratories, University of California, Davis.** CLRC will then forward the sample directly to the lab with the appropriate forms and information required by the lab. **Please do not send the sample with this application if you need to send blood, semen or other types of tissue or if you are a resident of the United States or other foreign country.** Wait for your kit to arrive and then send the DNA sample directly to the lab in order to minimize spoilage and cross-border delays.

### **Instructions for Collecting a Good Hair Sample**

1. For horses, hair is pulled from above the withers on the mane.
2. For cattle and other species, hair is pulled from the tail switch.
3. Sheep may not be tested using hair.
4. Clean the area from which hair is to be pulled. Dirt, manure, urine and other foreign material will make the hair sample unfit for testing.
5. Secure 35 to 45 hairs from the tail switch with pliers or around your finger. Do not clip. Pull hair sharply up towards the animal (against the grain). The hair follicles (translucent bulbs) on the end of the hair shaft must be present for successful testing. If hair follicles are small or hard to see, repeat the procedure and combine the hairs. **Additional hair follicles will be needed if you are requesting multiple tests in addition to parentage verification.** Put hair follicles together and wrap tape around the hair to secure approximately 2 inches from the hair follicles. Do not curl the hair in the bundle. The hair bundle may be trimmed to 3 to 4 inches in length but be sure to retain the end with the hair follicles.
6. Tape the centre of the hair shafts to the middle of a piece of paper and then insert it into an envelope and seal it before sampling the next animal. Do not use plastic Ziploc bags. Make sure to write the identity of the animal on the envelope including the name, tattoo, ear tag and registration number, if any. This will make sure we can match your hair samples with your application forms.

# Tattooing Regulations

**Calves must be tattooed  
by the owner at birth**

- i - before applying for registration**
- ii - before weaning**
- iii - before sale as a purebred**
- iv - before 8 months of age**

**Whichever comes first.**

**M  
2024**



**N  
2025**

**Reference: Bylaw No. One, Part II, Section Eighteen, Article 12.5 on page 10**

## **LETTERS USED TO DESIGNATE YEARS OF BIRTH:**

**Y** for 2011

**Z** for 2012

**A** for 2013

**B** for 2014

**C** for 2015

**D** for 2016

**E** for 2017

**F** for 2018

**G** for 2019

**H** for 2020

**J** for 2021

**K** for 2022

**L** for 2023

**M** for 2024

**N** for 2025

**P** for 2026

**R** for 2027

**S** for 2028

NOTE: The letters “I”, “O”, “Q” and “V” are NOT used as year designating letters!

# **The Tattoo**

## **The Importance**

The purebred breeding of cattle depends first and foremost on the identification of the purebred animal. For Highland Cattle in Canada, “purebred” is defined as an animal eligible for registration in the Herd Book, as provided in the Society’s bylaws.

The basic means of this identification for our Highland cattle is the tattoo, which must be recorded in the private herd book of every Highland breeder. Upon registration, an animal receives a second identification, its registration number. But a registration number is without meaning unless it can be tied, by visual examination, to the animal by its tattoo.

At the time of registration, the tattoo and other details respecting the animal, its sire and dam are recorded in the Society’s Herd book, which is maintained by the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC).

So the whole structure and integrity of the Canadian purebred records, and the genetic purity they represent, rests upon the tattoo and the responsibility and diligence of the individual breeder. The federal Animal Pedigree Act provides for criminal prosecution in the case of offenses respecting the identification of purebred animals, with fines up to \$50,000.

## **By Whom and When**

The rules of the Society require that a calf born in Canada is tattooed by the registered owner of the dam at the time of birth, the owner’s employee or agent, or the lessee or borrower of the dam, at the time of birth – and by no other. Although an animal must be tattooed within eight months of birth, this is best done as soon as reasonably possible, while it is easy to identify the mother and the calf is not yet strong enough to offer serious resistance. If a calf is not to be tattooed at birth, it should be identified by tag. However, if a calf is weaned or sold earlier, it must first be tattooed.

The sale of an animal as purebred that has not been registered may constitute a crime under the Animal Pedigree Act. An animal that has not been tattooed cannot be registered.

## **Equipment and Materials**

The following equipment and materials are essential to the task of tattooing: tattoo pliers (single or double headed) specifically designed for use with cattle, characters (letters and numerals for the pliers to indicate the breeder’s herd letters, the calf’s sequential number and the year letter), leather striker pads, foam rubber shims for the protection of the character tines (see note on page 3), tattoo paste or ink (the former is preferable), toothbrush, solvent (alcohol or detergent), water, towel or rags and rope.

The specialized equipment may be procured from CLRC or your usual supplier. CLRC may be contacted at 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 – Tel: 613-731-7110, Fax: 613-731-0704, E-mail: [clrc@clrc.on.ca](mailto:clrc@clrc.on.ca).

## **Preparing**

**Pliers:** Single head pliers call for making the tattoo in two applications, the first for the herd letters and then substituting the calf sequence number and year letter for the second. Double headed pliers are rotated for installing both rows at once and selecting the desired combination by the simple rotation of the head of the pliers. The year letters are arranged in alphabetical order, commencing with the letter “A” in 1991. Note that the letters “I”, “O”, “Q”, and “V” are not used. The tattoo letter for 2017 is “D”.



**Pads and Shims:** The leather pad placed in the head of the pliers prevents damage to the tines of the characters by striking directly against metal. To ensure proper registration of the tattoo, replace the pad when worn.

Some breeders are adamantly opposed to the use of shims on the grounds that they prevent effective penetration of the tines. And some breeders maintain that without shims, the tines can pass through the ear, thus expelling the paste/ink rather than implanting it. Follow whichever practice produces the best tattoo for you.

If shims are used, they must be carefully installed, by clenching the pliers on the shim repeatedly until all tines of the characters may be clearly felt with the forefinger. It can help if a second shim is placed over the first, in the clenching phase, to drive the first firmly down into the characters.

When applying a tattoo using shims, be sure to clench the pliers as firmly as possible to ensure penetration of the skin.

Shims must be completely removed from the characters, without delay after use, to prevent bonding. They must be replaced at the first sign of wear and, in any case at the end of the current calf year.

**The Characters:** Ensure that the characters are correctly assembled in the pliers by making an impression on a piece of paper before proceeding.

**Equipment and Materials:** Assemble all equipment and materials convenient to the work area. Make sure, if using ink, that it is well shaken and still viable.

**Accuracy:** To avoid the possibility of confusion when tattooing more than one animal, prepare a list in advance, identifying each animal with its assigned tattoo. As each is tattooed, score it off the list.

### **Doing It**

Although the act of tattooing should be simplicity itself, defective performance is the single greatest problem that the Pedigree Committee has to contend with. A botched job may prohibit registration. Even when the rules permit correction, it involves proof of parentage to the satisfaction of the Society, which is both expensive and time-consuming. The discovery of defective identification

one or more generations later produces major problems, laying the author open to negligence suits, as well as the sanctions and penalties under the Animal Pedigree Act and the Society's bylaws.

The following instructions are designed to ensure a good and legible tattoo.

1. The calf is immobilized so that the RIGHT ear is presented to receive the tattoo (the right ear is the one on the right side of the head when viewed from behind). If the ear is too small to receive the entire tattoo, contact the Society for an approved alternative.
2. The ear is cleaned of wax and dirt using a solvent, then rinsed and dried. Excess hair is clipped away.
3. Green paste is the preferred substance to use when tattooing as it shows up well on black as well as lighter coloured Highlands. Liberally apply the paste to the tattoo characters, using the toothbrush. Care must be taken not to inadvertently rub off any of the paste as the pliers are positioned in the ear. If using ink, apply the ink directly to the ear, avoiding the rib, prior to tattooing.
4. The pliers are positioned as far in from the tip of the ear as practical, carefully avoiding the ribs of the ear. The pliers are firmly clench and held in place for a second to make sure of the impression, while taking care the calf does not jerk its head and tear the ear, thereby destroying the tattoo. The younger the calf, of course, the less resistance will be met.

5. Release and remove the pliers quickly and carefully. Normally, the tattoo is made in two rows, with the herd letters being in the upper. Do not attempt to make both rows of the tattoo at the same time. In special circumstances described in Article 12, Section Eighteen of Bylaw No. One, Part II, the entire tattoo may be made in a single row, with the herd letters coming first.
6. Reinforcement and perfection of the tattoo is done by rubbing the paste/ink into the tattoo perforations with the thumb (the use of the toothbrush can cause bleeding). If bleeding occurs, apply pressure until it is checked, applying more paste/ink if necessary. Bleeding tends to flush the paste/ink out of the perforations and destroy the tattoo.
7. Do not clean the ear of excess paste/ink, as this may destroy the tattoo before the skin can heal and seal it in. Once the ear has cleaned naturally, legibility should be confirmed to make sure of success.
8. The equipment should also be cleaned for its protection and as a health precaution. In particular, the characters should be scrubbed with a solvent, then dried and stored in a clean, dry place. Rusting will render the characters useless.

### **Checking Tattoos**

The tattoo should be checked for accuracy once the ear has healed and excess ink has worn away. It is also recommended to check the tattoos of your older animals from time to time. If, through age or accident, a tattoo becomes illegible, contact the Society for advice. If the tattoo is faint, it may help to read it by holding a flashlight to the opposite side of the ear. If it is found that the tattoo has been botched or is illegible, contact the Society for advice.

### **Subsequent Use**

Breeders will use the tattoo for precise identification for all private purposes. The initial official use is for the purpose of registration, which is applied for by the owner, lessee or borrower of the dam at the time of the birth of a calf. The application for registration is supported by the signed certification of the animal's tattoo.

To apply knowingly for the registration of an animal that has not been tattooed or is incompletely or inaccurately tattooed constitutes a crime under the Animal Pedigree Act. Inadvertent error may be corrected, subject to the Society's rules, on proof of parentage acceptable to the Society. The process is expensive and time-consuming.

### **Private Herd Books**

The tattoo of each animal must be recorded in the private herd book of the owner, lessee or borrower of its dam at the time of birth, together with other details respecting the animal, its sire and dam, as prescribed in the bylaws of the Society.

### **Pedigree Committee**

The Pedigree Committee of the Society has the duty to oversee compliance by members and the public with the relevant bylaws and regulations of the Society, as well as the provisions of the Animal Pedigree Act. This necessarily covers everything to do with tattoos. The Committee has the authority to examine both animals and private records. Breeders are bound to give access to the members of the Committee and its agents for the performance of its duties. The penalty for refusal is expulsion of the member from the Society and the loss of all privileges. Breeders, who are not members, lose the right to register or transfer animals.

### **Minister of Agriculture**

Under the Animal Pedigree Act, the Minister of Agriculture has overall authority over the affairs of the Society with, among other things, power to inspect and examine the manner in which the individual identification (tattoo) is carried out and to inspect the breeders' private records.

### **Infractions**

In addition to the penalties for infractions, provided in Part I of Bylaw No. One of the Society, the infractions and penalties under the Animal Pedigree Act are repeated for the convenience of all breeders as Regulation No. Four of the Society.

### **Warning**

Allowing more than one bull over the age of ten months to have access to one or more females over the age of ten months means that it is impossible to certify as to the sire of a resulting calf and the credibility of the tattoo is meaningless.

In such a case, the rights and privileges of the breeder are suspended until proof of parentage acceptable to the Society has been submitted. See Article 16, Section Eighteen, of Bylaw No. One, Part II.

### **Conclusion**

Canada's Highland cattle are reputed to be among the purest, genetically, in the world today. The maintenance of that reputation is in the interest of each and every breeder. Central to this is the credibility of the Canadian Herd Book, which depends in the final analysis on the tattoo.

Canada's reputation is yours to protect – and to enjoy. The credibility of the tattoo ultimately depends on you and you alone.

Revised in February 2008 from the original by Gordon Kohl

# APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A FOREIGN OWNED BULL

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ COLOUR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

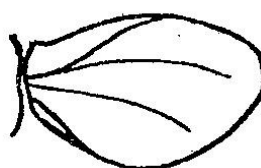
HORNED ☐ **OR** POLLED ☐

TATTOO (RIGHT EAR) \_\_\_\_\_ TATTOO (LEFT EAR) \_\_\_\_\_

RIGHT EAR



LEFT EAR



SIRE \_\_\_\_\_ REG. # \_\_\_\_\_

DAM \_\_\_\_\_ REG. # \_\_\_\_\_

BRED BY \_\_\_\_\_

I DECLARE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE TRUE AND THE ANIMAL IS TATTOOED AS INDICATED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ OWNER SIGN HERE \_\_\_\_\_

201-2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 0M7 Tel. / Tél.: 1-877-833-7110 (613) 731-7110  
Fax / Télécopieur: (613) 731-0704 E-mail/Courriel: clrc@clrc.ca www.clrc.ca

# APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A FOREIGN OWNED BULL

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE

SEX \_\_\_\_\_ COLOUR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

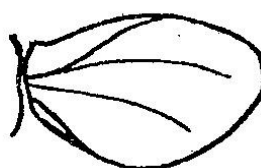
HORNED ☐ **OR** POLLED ☐

TATTOO (RIGHT EAR) \_\_\_\_\_ TATTOO (LEFT EAR) \_\_\_\_\_

RIGHT EAR



LEFT EAR



SIRE \_\_\_\_\_ REG. # \_\_\_\_\_

DAM \_\_\_\_\_ REG. # \_\_\_\_\_

BRED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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Fax / Télécopieur: (613) 731-0704 E-mail/Courriel: clrc@clrc.ca www.clrc.ca



# CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF LEASE  
MUST BE FILLED IN, IN INK OR TYPEWRITTEN



ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE IN INK  
FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS LEASE

BREED \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I leased or

loaned the animal named \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ Id. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Under the following conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

From the \_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE \_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

X

Lessor or authorized representative sign here. Partnership or company  
Signatures must be countersigned by the person authorized to sign.

\_\_\_\_\_ Id. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Lessor



# CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Under the following conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

From the \_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE \_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Lessor or authorized representative sign here. Partnership or company  
Signatures must be countersigned by the person authorized to sign.

\_\_\_\_\_ Id. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Lessor

**MAKE SURE THAT:**

-THE ANIMAL IS  
ELIGIBLE FOR  
REGISTRATION  
-THE TATTOO  
INSCRIBED BELOW  
IS EXACT

**Canadian Livestock Records Corporation**

2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Canada K1V 0M7

**THE CANADIAN HIGHLAND CATTLE ASSOCIATION**

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION**

**Print or Type all Information, except Signatures**



<b>Name:</b> (not more than 30 letters including spaces)															LEAVE BLANK				
<b>SEX:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male		<b>SEX OF TWIN:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male		<b>BIRTH DATE</b>			<b>TATTOO</b>												
				Day	Month		Year		Right Ear			Left Ear							
Female		Female																	
<b>NATIONAL EAR TAG</b>				<b>Colour:</b>															
Right Ear				Left Ear	Black <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Brindle <input type="checkbox"/> Light Brindle <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Light Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dun <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Dun <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/>														
<b>Sire:</b>								Can. No:		American No:		Foreign No:							
<b>Dam:</b>								Can. No:		American No:		Foreign No:							
<b>Bred By</b> (Fill in name and address of owner or lessee of the dam at the time she was served to produce this calf):										ID No.									
<b>Calved the property of</b> (Fill in name and address of owner or lessee of the dam at time she gave birth to this calf):										ID No.									
<b>Imported by:</b>										ID No.									

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF DAM OR RECIPIENT**

(Please report all services. Attach A.I. Breeding Slips when possible)

BREEDING or IMPLANT INFORMATION	SERVICE DATE OR PASTURE START DATE			PASTURE END DATE			SIRE		Reg. Number
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year			
Last Service→									
Previous Service→									
I HEREBY DECLARE that according to my private record, the above named dam was served by the above named sire(s) on the dates specified above:  <b>X</b> _____ Signature of owner of sire or authorized representative sign here.									

**CERTIFICATE OF OWNER AT BIRTH**

I HEREBY DECLARE that the foregoing information is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and that the above named animal is actually identified as indicated.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

Owner of Animal at time of birth or importer or authorized representative sign here.  
Partnership or company signatures must be countersigned by the person authorized to sign.  
If you owned the sire and dam at time of service, and the animal was born your property,  
sign once only on line indicated by X.

**If calf, sold, attach completed and signed Application for Transfer.**



# Livestock Identification Supplies Price List

## Effective February, 2016

### PLASTIC DALTON TAGS

**Colours:** Yellow, White, Blue and Pink

Cow Size (Maxi) 3"x4.5" Calf Size (Large) 2.36"x2.95" Hog Size 2.16"x1.96" Suretag 1 3/8" x 3/8"

Tags	Blank / 100 Tags	Letters and Numbers /100 Tags
RT-3620-162: Cow size with Button	\$78.75	\$123.75
RT-3630-162: Calf size with Button	\$66.00	\$114.00
RT-3640-162: Hog size with Button	\$89.00	\$111.00
RT-3675-162: Suretag	\$48.00	\$69.00

Applicators	
RT-3675A-162: Suretag Applicator	\$37.50 each
RT-9620-162: Supertag Applicator	\$37.50 each

### KETCHUM EAR TATTOO EQUIPMENT

What is ear tattooing? Small punctures are made in the ear by means of needles shaped in the form of letters and numbers. Ketchum non-toxic ink is then rubbed into the fresh punctures; the skin heals over the ink and a permanent mark remains. All Ketchum tattoo pliers utilize the "lock-bar" method of character insertion, which allows for prompt, easy interchange of characters.

**N.B. Outfit prices discontinued. Please order pliers, ink and characters separately.**

The model 50D plier holds 7 characters 3/16" high; the model 101 holds 7 characters 1/4" high, the model 201A holds 8 characters 5/16" high in 2 rows of four each, the model 201B holds 6 characters 5/16" high in one row, the model 201R (revolving head) holds 4 characters on each side 5/16" high.

Tattoo Pliers only: Models 50D and 101 (7 holes).....	\$46.75
Tattoo Pliers only: Models 201A .....	\$57.90
Tattoo Pliers only: Model 201B.....	\$52.70
Tattoo Pliers only: Model 201R .....	\$88.25
Tattoo characters: 1 only.....	Models 50D and 101:....\$3.85 Model 201....\$4.65
2 to 9.....	Models 50D and 101.... \$3.70 Model 201....\$4.45
10 or more.....	Models 50D and 101.....\$3.50 Model 201....\$4.25
Rubber Strippers (Package of 10).....	\$3.40
Plastic Tattoo Die Box.....	\$4.95

### KETCHUM TATTOO INKS

#### Black Fluid

KI-1448-039: Black, 57 ml. (2 oz.) roll-on bottle.....	\$4.95
KI-1452-039: Black, 500 ml. (18 oz.) bottle.....	\$24.50

#### Black Paste

KI-1467-039: Black, 1 litre (35 oz.), metal tin .....	\$30.60
KI-1468-039: Black, 140 gm. (5 oz.) jar.....	\$8.25

#### Green Fluid

KI-1449-039: Green, 57 ml. (2 oz.) roll-on bottle .....	\$6.60
KI-1462-039: Green, 500 ml. (18 oz.) jar.....	\$36.00

#### Green Paste

KI-1471-039: Green, 28 gm. (1 oz.) tube.....	\$6.00
KI-1475-039: Green, 140 gm. (5 oz.) tube.....	\$17.70
KI-1479-039: Green, 643 gm.(22.7 oz.) metal tin .....	\$60.95

## Feeding Highland Cattle

Yes, that's right, the Highland are recognized as an unusually healthy and hearty and will survive on roughage and poor grazing including brush, if necessary, under climate conditions where most of the popular, commercial breeds would suffer. Highland are noted for their browsing ability and therefore are well suited to farmsteads where there is an excess of poor pasture or rough terrain with meager grazing. But we must not forget that they are cattle and that if you want a good yield and healthy calves, you must treat them properly. For a long time, the Highland were victims of their reputation as rustic cattle, but this trend has changed in recent years, for their greater good. The Highland still are, but with more they will give more.

Highland beef is slow-maturing in a lean, well-marbled premium beef with low fat and cholesterol levels whilst remaining rich in protein and flavour, criteria increasingly demanded by today's market. Highland beef often commands a premium price over other breeds due to its succulent fine flavour and healthy eating appeal.

Highland cattle represent one of the best ways to preserve our landscape. The cattle are experts at improving unproductive land and maintaining a balance of plants and they will thrive on rough fodder enabling less competitive grasses and flowers to flourish.

Over the past years, Highland breeders developed a large variety of diets. They include strictly grass and hay diets, to pasturing with an input of cereal grains, or barley, wheat or corn silage to the more bizarre peas, turnips or the leftover hop residue from a brewery. Most breeders do some experimenting and come up with a formula that works best for them.

In general, a wholesome diet is necessary for good health and growth. Here the Highland has a distinct advantage, as its needs are simple and economical. During the summer months they should have an ample supply of grazing and access to fresh water. In winter, good hay, straw, green feed or silage can be fed with no need of extensive feeding of concentrates. They will require access to minerals to ensure vitamin levels are maintained (plus selenium in most part of the eastern Canada\*). Cows with calves at foot can be offered supplementary feed ration such as oats, barley or corn in adverse weather conditions. Highland digest oats, regardless of whether they are rolled or whole better than barley, wheat or corn.

\*If your minerals don't have enough selenium in them, you will need a prescription form your vet for the makers of your minerals. They will adjust the formula for your needs in the part of Canada you are living.

The following is from an article written by Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein of Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development Division:

`The key to improving management of grazing cattle is to simply observe their grazing behavior and understand the cues they provide.

Cattle graze by encircling grass and other plants with their tongue and breaking it with a sharp sideways movement of the head. For this reason, they cannot graze grass that is less than 1 cm in height. Consequently, rotating cattle to new pasture frequently is important. One clue a producer



can use as an indication of when to move their animals to a new trip of pasture, is the substantial slowing of the grazing rate.

In addition to pasture quality other factors such as weather, predators, and insects can greatly affect grazing. Cattle prefer to graze during the daylight hours with the longest and most continuous periods occurring shortly before sunrise and near dusk. Two shorter periods of grazing usually occur in the midmorning and early afternoon. In very hot weather, cattle will seek shade instead of grazing during the hottest part of the day. Similarly, heavy rain, wind and snow can cause cattle to seek shelter instead of forage. During these times the rate of grazing may increase at night so that cattle can compensate for lower grazing rates during the day.

Disturbances by man and predators, such as coyotes, usually decrease the rate of grazing because cattle spend more time watching out for potential danger and trying to move away from it. Insect attacks can also reduce grazing rates.

Cattle are herd species, meaning that they do best when they are part of a group. However, when pasture quality is low and good forage is not readily available competition between individuals can occur. This means that the dominant individuals in the group get access to the best forage while less dominant individuals do not."

In some cases, the grazing of poisonous plants can lead to death. Many poisonous species of plants are native to range and pasture lands. These plants are neither grazed nor browsed under normal conditions because they are unpalatable or few in number. Unusual conditions that force livestock to eat toxic quantities of poisonous plants can include drought and biting insects. Here is the list of plants that are poisonous to cattle:

Tall larkspur	Milk Vetches	Monkshood
Low larkspur	Mushrooms	Mustards
Water hemlock	Saskatoon	Showy milkweed
Arrowgrass	Choke cherry	Black nightshade
Horsetails or scouring rush	Death Cama	Dogbane
Early yellow locoweed	Lady's thumb	Corydalis

Highland breeders pride themselves in raising their animals as naturally as possible without any hormones, vaccinations or additives, creating a wholesome product ideally suited for niche marketing. It is advised that you check with your local veterinarian in regard to bovine diseases that may be prevalent in your area though and vaccinate for them if necessary (for example: Anthrax in Saskatchewan and Black-Leg (Anthrax) in Quebec).

*Here is the article I wrote for the Bagpipe for those of you who are not members of AHCA.*

*Pat White, AHCA & CHCS member*

### **THE VALUE OF REGISTERED CATTLE.**

I often get frustrated when I am browsing Facebook pages about Highland Cattle. I love the photos posted, I love the educational aspect of the columns, (although one must be very careful: I have seen some rather incredible mistaken beliefs posted as gospel) but I don't understand so many individuals with such an apparent passion for Highland cattle, and yet they either do not register their cattle, or they do not buy registered cattle in the first place. I am such a strong proponent of pedigreed cattle with on-going registration of offspring, and I struggle to understand why others do not share this particular passion of mine.

So the question remains, why should anybody buy registered Highland Cattle? Registration papers signify a great deal about the actual animal you own or are thinking of purchasing. Those papers trace the ancestry back through 3 generations, and if you look up that registration information on line, with a simple click of your mouse you can explore each ancestor on the pedigree back another 3 generations, with each and every click.

In addition to name and color you can explore "relatives"; the offspring produced by a grandsire or grand dam on and on ad infinitum or at least as far back as our herd book details. You also can see if any of the immediate ancestry are considered Impact or Elite Impact animals, if any were produced by Artificial insemination or embryo transfer. If the pedigree provides a Canadian or Scottish Import, the data base of these affiliated associations will provide further information on ancestry in a similar fashion. Studying pedigree can allow you to make breeding decisions: for example trying to duplicate a particular animal that you like by pulling the same ancestors out of similar pedigrees.

This is a common theme that is used by breeders in their own herds: when we recognize a superior animal out of one cow sired by a particular bull, we may try to reproduce some facsimile of that superior creature by repeating the breeding, or getting as close to that breeding as we can. Sometimes it works magically; every full sibling is a carbon copy of each other. Sometimes it fails just as dramatically; a single superior animal in a sea of mediocrity.

That is the fun and the joy and the frustration of breeding livestock: to see what you can accomplish and hopefully learn from your mistakes, (and there will be many. ) In your own herd, you will remember which pairing creates what results. Purchasers of registered animals will have that same ability but without the benefit of your memory; to search through pedigrees and try to produce that superior animal based on careful analysis and evaluation of those registration histories. For registration papers are just that, a written history of your cattle.

Performance of family groups can be evaluated using those same papers. Longevity and production can be tracked through the on-line herdbook, and breeders should be willing to share any collected performance information whether in a hand written notebook or through the American Highland Cattle Associations on-line performance registry. Important, heritable traits such as longevity; udder conformation, age at first calving, calf weaning weights and yearling weights are all points that can be compiled on line through our national association website.

Registered Highlands allow you to maintain detailed pedigree information on your cattle with ease, allow you to participate in breed shows and association events, and permit your cattle to appeal to a broader segment of the cattle owning public, not just those raising beef or raising feeders, but to those families looking for a project for their child, or looking for a supplement to their income, or looking for a hobby that can develop into a passion.

So when it actual comes to making that initial purchase of seedstock, many times I hear on the other end of the phone that the buyer doesn't need or isn't interested in show quality cattle. I truly beg to differ. The only kind of cattle any buyer of registered stock should aspire to purchase, is show quality cattle. I am not recommending that new breeders go out and buy "show cattle"; anyone who knows me personally would think I had turned over a totally unexpected leaf if I actually said I believed that.

I have always been a proponent of naturally fed cattle in the show ring. I am not a proponent of show rations and have long paraded our cattle into countless show rings fed no differently than our entire herd (sometimes to excellent results, many times not). I am saying however that any animal you purchase, if in adequate rig and presentable state of cleanliness, should be capable of walking into a show ring with any number of show hardened, fed-up veterans, and do you proud. That does not mean you win the Championship; that most likely will go to the animals that best appeal to the judge's eye; those cattle superbly fitted and fed to perfection.

Nor does it mean that you should ever plan on showing your cattle or even halter-breaking your cattle. It means that any animal you elect to keep as a member of your breeding herd should have everything it takes to acquit itself in the show ring admirably. It can walk well, it has good feet and legs, it has a level topline, has a good udder with decent teat size (assuming of course, a female old enough to display its most obvious feminine attributes) and hopefully on top of that, has a gorgeous head and sweeping majestic horns to round out the rest of the animal.

For all intents and purposes, it may well be better than the Champions. If you are purchasing cattle, buy the best cattle you can find. Cattle with correct conformation have the proper angle to their feet and legs that minimizes the wear and tear on their skeletal structure so that they can live to a ripe old age while looking ½ of their actual years. Cows with properly formed, tight udders and teats the perfect size to fit a newborn calf's mouth will continue to produce calf after calf, year after year, without any human intervention. (Barring, of course, unforeseen situations.)

As conscientious breeders of registered cattle, we have an obligation to cull our herds of inferior specimens that should not be in our breed. These cattle should be in a beef program and eaten, clear and simple. Recover as much value as you can from these animals, because registered or not, all cattle are ultimately beef. Highland cattle should carry themselves on reasonably correct musculoskeletal systems, with good udders and easily accessed teats to be able to raise a calf that is fat and healthy, be sound breeders and repeat that trouble-free calf rearing business year after year after year. If they cannot do that, get rid of them. Don't sell them to some sucker down the road; what goes around comes around and your reputation will suffer. The best part is that older non-productive Highland cows make the best burger you have ever eaten.

Breeding registered Highland cattle is highly rewarding both from a personal, emotional level and from a financial standpoint. But buying the best registered cattle you can find will not guarantee you receive more money for their offspring, so if you want those registration papers to pay off, you need to study them, you need to develop a feel for what good cattle are and what traits work best for you. You need to develop the best purebred herd that you possibly can and then you need to market those genetics in any fashion that you can possibly fathom. That doesn't mean that every animal you breed has to win on the show circuit. It means that you breed reliable cattle that do what you expect, what your buyers expect and desire; you build a reputation for honesty, integrity and good cattle all at the same time. You back up your words with deeds and make sure you take care of your buyers. Help them learn, help them market, help them become as enamored with registered Highland cattle as you are.

One of the first, and as I see it, one of most important actions you can take to impress upon a new buyer the importance of registration is to transfer those papers into the new buyers' name. Do that immediately, do it yourself and pay the transfer fees. Next, purchase that new buyer a membership in your National Association\*. This does not need to cut into your profit; charge enough for your cattle to cover these costs. It is not rocket science, but it goes a long way to cementing a relationship between you and that new buyer, and a relationship between that new buyer and your Association. Make registration of Highland cattle your priority and instill that precedent into every purchaser of your cattle.

It takes a long time to build a respected reputation that new breeders will turn to as a first purchase option and established breeders will look to for herd improvement. But do those registration papers actually add to the value of your cattle? The answer to that is an unequivocal yes. Anyone with cattle can market those animals as beef. Registered cattle can produce beef just as effectively as grade or commercial cattle. But grade or commercial cattle do not come with a detailed family history of performance ability. Registered cattle can always be sold as beef, or as grade/ commercial animals without papers. But the opposite is not true. AHCA does not permit the grading up of Highland type cattle. Unregistered, grade cattle can never become registered. No matter how gorgeous, no

matter the breed character, no matter the conformation, no matter the disposition, no matter how pure they may appear, grade Highlands may not ever become registered cattle.

It is for this reason that whenever I view a gorgeous example of the breed, only to discover that the animal is not registered, I feel such a profound sense of disappointment. I find failure to maintain the registration on these animals to be both a travesty and a tragedy.

The definition of “breeder” is paramount, and Wikipedia summed it up this way “a breeder is a person who practices the vocation of mating carefully selected specimens of the same breed to reproduce specific, consistently replicable qualities and characteristics. This might be as a farmer or a hobbyist and can be practiced on a large or small scale, for food, fun, or profit. ” This is where breeders differ from the many keepers and sellers of Highland cattle. We should all look at breeding Highland cattle as a business, whether large or small, and we should all profit from the sale of our cattle, whether many or few. But paramount to any Highland operation is the “careful selection of breeding stock” and subsequent registration of those animals with the American Highland Cattle Association (or other Highland breed registry). If the animals are not registered, and those papers are not transferred to a new owner, that animal is effectively lost to the breed gene pool; it is no more than a grade or commercial beef animal. Its lineage is lost, its link to the past is lost and in most cases, cannot be re-established. Such Highland owners then become little more than animal collectors, rather than conservators of a unique and rare breed.

Be a breeder of Highland cattle.

\*Note: The first year of membership for every new member of the SCEBH is free, automatically.



# The Kyloe Cry

Official magazine of  
The Canadian Highland Cattle Society

# The Kyloe Cry

Publication bilingue officielle de la Société  
canadienne des éleveurs de bovins Highland

The Kyloe Cry is much more than just a  
breed magazine.

It is the link that unites all Highland  
breeders in Canada.

It is a forum where ideas and opinions are  
discussed.

It is a source of useful ideas.

And its published TWICE a year!

To invest in the Kyloe Cry  
is an investment  
in your fold's reputation.

To advertise in the Kyloe Cry is  
an investment in profitability.

Le Kyloe Cry est bien plus qu'une simple  
publication d'éleveurs.

Il est le lien qui unit tous les éleveurs de  
bovins Highland au Canada.

Il est la tribune où les idées et les opinions  
sont débattues.

Il est la source de bien des informations utiles.

Et il est publié DEUX fois par année !

S'annoncer dans le The Kyloe Cry est un  
investissement dans la visibilité de votre  
élevage et autre entreprise.

S'annoncer dans le Kyloe Cry est un  
investissement rentable.

Support your publication,  
advertise in the Kyloe Cry!

Soutenez votre publication:  
annoncez dans le The Kyloe Cry!

# The Kyloz Cry

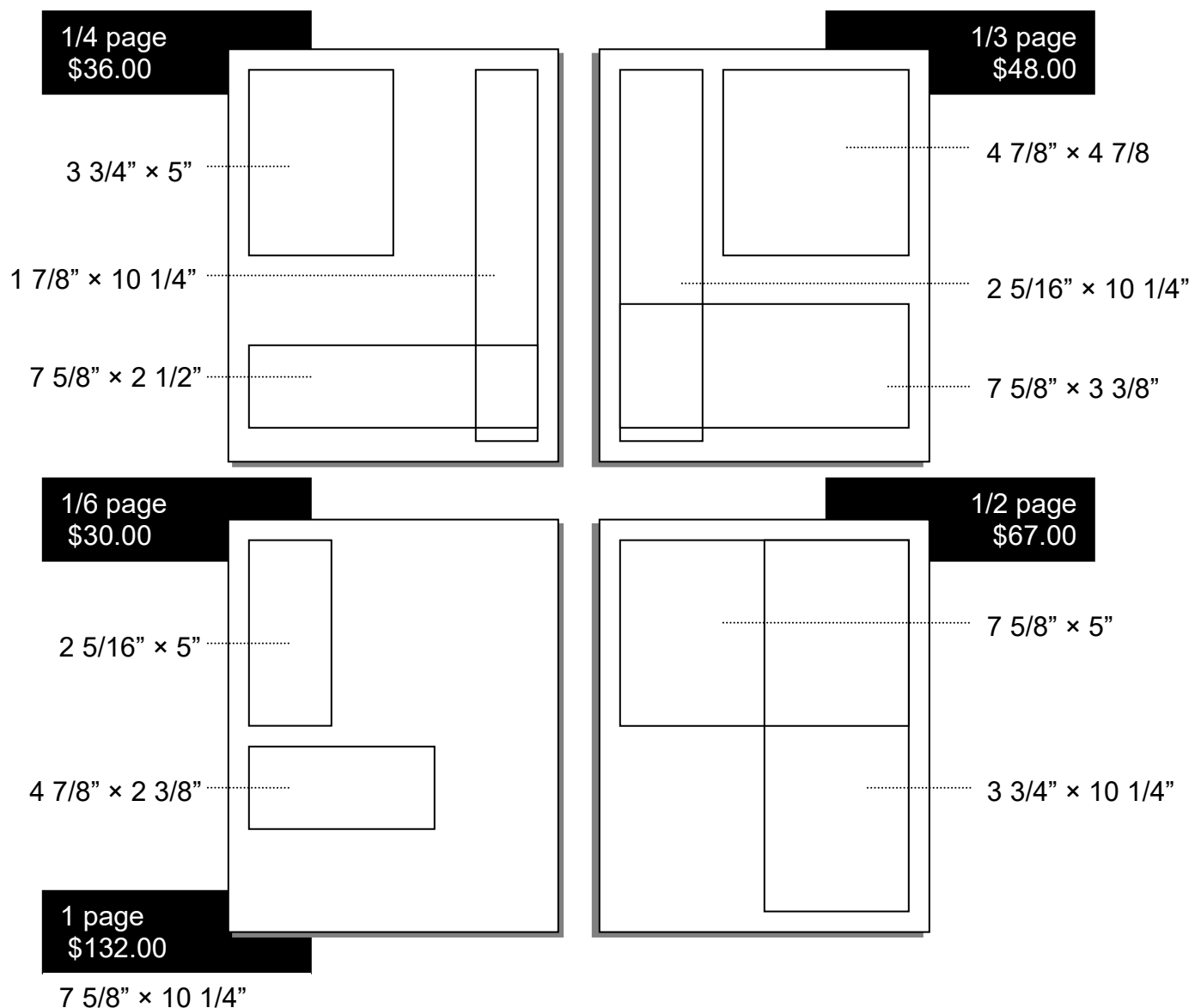
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Listing    \$50.00/year

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One of the things I like about the AGM and the meetings with breeders from all over the country are the ideas we share and the facilities we sometimes discover. This was again the case at the last AGM held in Ontario by Bob and Linda Ahrens of Stowe Highlands Farm in Mulmur. When Bob showed us their Highland cattle and their facilities (many made by himself), everyone stopped in front of their cage, / headgate /corridor and the questions began to flow.

We all know the horns of our Highlands, despite their magnificence, are not very practical when we have to contain them for handling, for whatever reason. Bob explained the workings of his creation. The «Bob Ahrens cage» is located inside the open barn, so it is always accessible for handling the cattle. The two access doors are always open, and the cattle have to walk through to get to the indoor feeder. Cows have no fear when the doors/gates close in front of or behind them because it is a place known to them and used regularly. In addition, it is functional. With access from both sides, cattle can be handled regardless of whether they are returning from the feeder or going there. After explanations were given, it was time for the technical questions posed by the members: measurements, height, width, materials, etc. Some took pictures and said it would be super handy for their fold. I know that among them, there is one that was built in the weeks that followed by Ian McNaughton and that for others it is on the list of necessities.

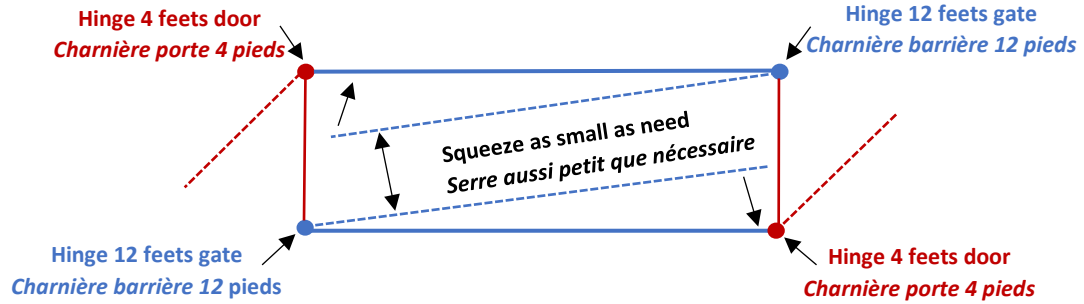
So, I thought I would ask Bob Ahrens if he would give me permission to describe it to you more precisely. To my great joy, he sent me the plans he drew for the construction. With their permission, I share it with you so here is the plan of «Bob Ahrens cage».

Congratulations and thank you for sharing Bob, all the credit goes to you!

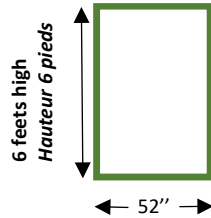




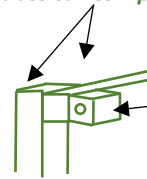
# Bob Ahrens Cage



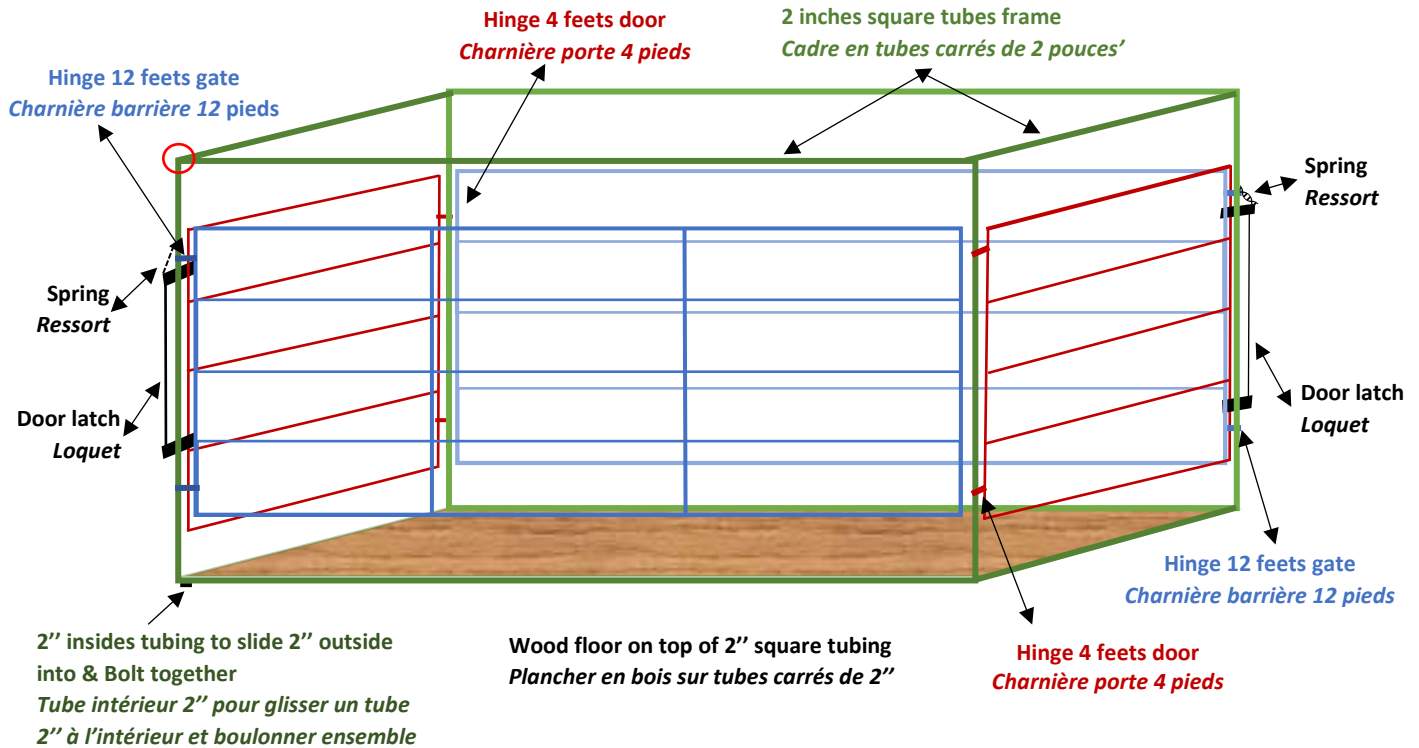
2 inches square tubes  
*Tubes carrés 2 pouces*



2 inches Square tubes  
*Tubes carrés 2 pouces*



2 inches inside to slide top & bottom rails into  
*2 pouces intérieur pour insérer poteau de soutien*



Green : 2 inches square tubes

Blue : 12 feet gates

Red : 4 feet doors

Vert : tubes carrés de 2 pouces

Bleu : Barrières de 12 pieds

Rouge : portes de 4 pieds