



Size

Ayrshires are medium size cattle with excellent dairy conformation.

Ease of Calving

Ayrshire farmers report less assisted calvings and low calf mortalities.

Natural Hardiness & Foraging Ability

Ayrshires have an inbuilt hardiness that enables them to tolerate extremes of climate. Ayrshires are excellent foragers and will graze less accessible areas.

Ease of Milking

Ayrshire cows have excellent udder conformation and teat placement enhancing udder health and ease of milking.

T.O.P. Classification

Ayrshires consistently score well in the farmer scored traits of Adaptability to Milking, Shed Temperament and Overall Opinion. Ayrshires also score well for rump angle, all udder traits & dairy capacity.

Longevity

Ayrshires consistently have the highest percentage of cows 10 years of age and over, of total cows herd tested among the three major breeds.

Somatic Cell Count

The Ayrshire breed has the best average Somatic Cell Count BV across all three major breeds and crossbreeds.

Cross - breeding option

Of the three main breeds, Ayrshires continue to produce the greater quantity of protein in relation to Milk Fat i.e. protein / fat ratio. Ayrshire semen has the highest percentage of use by other breeds, indicating a large percentage of use for cross-breeding.

Ayrshire New Zealand

Incorporated in 1909, Ayrshire New Zealand is a progressive and innovative Breed Association representing Ayrshire breeders throughout New Zealand. The Association is committed to maximising the rate of genetic gain of the breed. In 1998 Ayrshire New Zealand was the first Breed Society in New Zealand to set up a Nucleus Herd and in 2001 commenced a sharemilking venture in a world first now milking 450 cows at the Ace Farm.

Semayr Breeding Services

A division of Ayrshire New Zealand, Semayr provides all dairy farmers with semen from the highest BW Ayrshire bulls through LIC Alpha Nominated. Semayr is proving numerous young bulls annually and in 2005 purchased a farm to house all bulls owned by the Association.