

# DAIRY BREED IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATION

This policy for establishing a collaboration program involving all member sectors to benefit breeders and support genetic progress in the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, and Milking Shorthorn breeds was approved by the CDCB Board of Directors on 08/23/2022.

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

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The Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) recognizes that benefiting from genomic predictions to accelerate genetic progress is more challenging for smaller populations because of reduced reference populations and limited resources available to develop the necessary data streams and selection strategies. Therefore, CDCB is going to facilitate a collaboration program between all member sectors to benefit breeders and support genetic progress in the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, and Milking Shorthorn breeds.

## 2. KEY OBJECTIVES

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- Greater participation in programs that support breed improvement - identification, registration, type classification, dairy herd improvement (DHI), genomic testing, NAAB cross reference
- Value-driven access to CDCB genomic evaluations for bulls of smaller-population breeds
- Technical support in genetic improvement strategies

## 3. STRATEGY

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Key Objective	Actions	Deliverables
Greater participation in industry programs (identification, registration, type classification, DHI, genomic testing, NAAB cross-reference)	Identify tangible value for participation in different programs and the overarching goals.	Document summarizing how industry programs benefit producers and how they are integrated.
	Increase awareness about industry programs (materials, events).	Publication of popular articles and presentations in events.
	Incentivize participation in industry programs.	Each segment defines the type of incentive for its own program.

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Value-driven access to CDCB genomic evaluations for bulls of smaller-population breeds	Offer an additional credit of \$400 on Artificial Insemination (AI) service fees out of a CDCB fund to all Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, and Guernsey bulls eligible to receive cooperator credits according to the <a href="#">CDCB Fee Schedule</a> . <sup>1</sup>	Larger number of bulls enrolling to the NAAB cross reference program and consequently more breeding options for dairy producers.
Technical support in genetic improvement strategies	Develop a full-time outreach position at CDCB, who would (among other responsibilities) assist colored breeds to optimize their selection strategies.	Outreach Specialist coordinates the Dairy Breed Improvement Collaboration program.

## 4. BREED ASSOCIATIONS COMPROMISE

In support of the Dairy Breed Improvement Collaboration program, all breed associations involved (US Ayrshire Breeders' Association, National Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association, American Guernsey Association, and American Milking Shorthorn Society) have formally agreed to adopt the following policies:

- AI bulls must be genotyped to be registered by the association.
- Progeny of AI bulls can only be registered if sire enrolls in the NAAB cross reference program.
- AI Bull's dam and sire must be registered.

## 5. PROGRAM DURATION

The CDCB board of directors will assess the impact of the program 24 months after approval and make a decision to keep or discontinue the policy.

<sup>1</sup> Milking Shorthorn bulls will be eligible to the same benefits when genomic evaluations for the breed are published by CDCB.