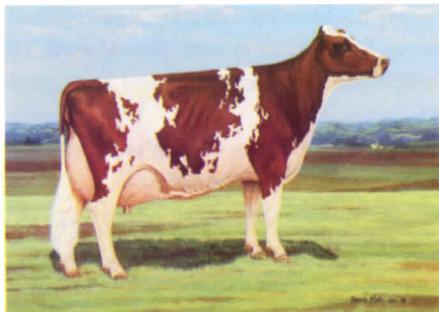


Ayrshire Cattle Breeders Society cont.



The Ayrshire breed in Kenya

The First Ayrshire Cattle were brought to Kenya in 1908 from South Africa. A lot of live imports also came from Britain between 1910-1940. Artificial Insemination in Kenya was started in 1935. Kenya was actually the 2nd country in the World after Russia to start using A.I. on commercial basis.

In 1946 Kenya established a Bull station which was named Central Artificial Insemination Station (CAIS) with objective of controlling venereal diseases and improving the Dairy cattle that were being introduced in the country by the White Settler Farmers.

Through use of Artificial Insemination from the 1940s the Ayrshire breed in Kenya has been propagated either as a pure breed in Large Scale Farms and small holder farms or crossed with Beef breeds such as Boran and Sahiwals with the crosses doing very well in Semi arid and Coastal regions under average or poor management practices.

The Ayrshire breed in Kenya is spread throughout the country in the Kenya highlands, middle potential areas, savannah lands and the coastal regions of the country.

There are 27,938 Ayrshires in Kenya which are registered either as Pedigree, Appendix, intermediate and foundation and an estimated 1.2 million Grade Ayrshires.

Ayrshire Cattle Breeders Society of Kenya
P.O. Box 478, NAKURU TeL. 0723379048

[Email:ayrshiresociety@gmail.com](mailto:ayrshiresociety@gmail.com)

Chairman - Dr. Muchemi Kariuki

Tel: 0722874095 Email:mchemi_k@yahoo.com

Secretary - Mr. D. Musyoka

The Registered Ayrshires are to be found mainly in large scale farms which would be keeping an average of 300 head of Ayrshire Cattle. The Foundation Ayrshires are mainly reared by small holder farmers who produce 80% of the milk marketed through the formal channels.

The Kenya Ayrshire is any shade of red or brown including mahogany and white. They are medium sized and hardy with strong feet and legs and well developed strongly attached udders.

The national average production of Ayrshire in Kenya is 3,000 Kg of milk in 305 days at 4.7% butter fat and 4.5% protein. The Kenya Ayrshire is bred for production, longevity, fertility and disease resistance.

The old generation of Ayrshire cattle in Kenya are bred from Scottish, English, Swedish and Finish sires thanks to Mr. Jack Lawson and Dr. Rune Israelson who were instrumental in recruiting the breeding bulls from Britain and Sweden respectively from the 1960s to 1980s. The bulls were brought to the bull station at ages of 6-8 months for semen production.

In recent years (1990s and 2000s) our National Ayrshire herd has received injections of blood lines from Canada, USA, New Zealand and South Africa.



Central A.I. Station has bulls sired by world famous sires such as:-

- Pant Blue Lagoon Bankard Lord Ontario
- Cuthill Tower Peking
- Low Milton Bionic Boy
- Ngarangi Impressario
- Covey Farms Romeo
- Brighdale Copper
- Brooklehill Hercules
- Covey Farm Reno

The Ayrshire Cattle Breeders Society of Kenya was started in 1920 with the objective of developing and promoting the Ayrshire breed in Kenya.

Currently the Bull station has a total of 38 bulls all bred in Kenya and producing an average of 150,000 doses of semen per year which is all distributed to farmers in the country. This semen output accounts for 35% of the semen produced and distributed by the bull station. Currently the society has 38 members who own $\frac{3}{4}$ of the registered Ayrshire cattle in the country.

The Society has been promoting the Ayrshire Breed as the most economical and profitable breed for the Small Holder Farmers in Kenya through Field Days, release of Brochures and Posters and displaying in A.S.K Shows.

In its endeavour to increase genetic diversity and improvement of the National Ayrshire herd the

Society has been encouraging importation of semen from Sires of high genetic merit to complement the genetics offered by Central A.I. Station.

Some of the Companies involved in importation of Ayrshire genetics are given below:-

- Twiga Chemical - (Marketing Canadian Genetics)
- World Wide Sires - (Marketing U.S.A Genetics)
- ABS/TCM - (Marketing U.S.A Genetics)
- Super Sires Genetics Ltd. - (Marketing Finish Genetics)
- HighChem Essentials - (Marketing U.S.A Genetics)

Whereas the country has a large population of Ayrshires it is regrettable that most of them are not registered. This scenario has limited the implementation of Breeding Programmes in the country.

Ayrshire Farmers are encouraged to register and milk record their Ayrshires for value addition and promotion of the National Dairy Herd.

The future of Ayrshire breed in Kenya is bright. In Kenya farms are getting smaller and smaller due to land subdivisions. Due to its hardy nature and ability to utilize less and rough roughage and convert it to quality milk and meat, the Ayrshire breed will remain the most economical and profitable dairy breed for the small holder farmers both in the Kenya Highlands, the Marginal areas and Coastal Region of Kenya.

