



Transforming Lives through Quality Education

## DIVISION OF RESEARCH & EXTENSION

# How to Register Your Dairy Cattle

### What is dairy cattle registration?

Cattle registration is the official recording of the grade of an animal ancestry. Registration entails good identification of the animal, its parents and ancestors. Official registration of cattle is done by Kenya Livestock Breeders Organization (KLBO) through the Kenya Stud Book.

### What are the benefits of registering dairy cattle?

Registration of cattle makes selection of the best breeding animals simpler. It also helps you to avoid inbreeding because related animals are easily identified. Registered cattle are sold at higher prices compared to unregistered ones. Registering your cattle also offers you the chance to enter into contracts with breeding centres where your best cows are served with semen from the best bulls and if a female calf is born then you will keep it. After registration, you can also get the chance to market your animals at various livestock breeders shows. It also makes it easier for exportation of the livestock and dairy products to other countries.

### Steps to follow in the process of registration

Before registration, make sure that your animals are well marked for easy identification. An agent of the KLBO can help you mark your animals. Common methods used in cattle identification are ear tags, ear notches and skin branding or magnetic chips implants. Fill in the Kenya Stud Book joining form to apply for an official name for your herd. The form will give details of your farm including the animals kept. Once your application is approved you will be provided with registration forms for individual cattle at your farm. An agent of the Kenya Stud Book or the breed society will also be sent to your farm. The agent will inspect your cattle in order to give each one a class. An animal may belong to Foundation, Intermediate, Appendix or Pedigree class. This depends on the characteristics each animal has and the class of its parents. Foundation is the lowest class while pedigree is the highest. After filling the registration form for each animal, return the forms to KLBO offices for issuance of animal registration certificates. You will be required to pay some money for each animal registered depending on the class, breed and sex.



Ear tags on an Ayrshire calf



Some of the common dairy breeds in Kenya

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