

# Draft Document – for Discussion

## *Irish “Dairy Fleckvieh” Herdbook development*

### Issues:

#### 1. One Breed or Two?

Because Ireland has one Central Database for livestock, (Dept Ag and Breed Societies), separating the Breed into two would involve a huge amount of office work, at a significant cost, and in the end, would still leave some animals listed as cross-bred, because of common ancestors, then in another Breed. All ancestors as well as living cattle would have to be divided into the two breeds, assuming one could get permission from the Dept Ag. to split the Breed.

Future imports would probably be the biggest issue. The breed is regarded as a single breed in all other countries, and so new cattle being imported would potentially have common ancestors that were previously divided into the two “separate Breed” herd books in Ireland.

In conclusion, this option would be extremely expensive, take a long time, and in the end, most probably impossible to fully complete.

#### 1. Breed Name.

The breed name could probably be changed to “Fleckvieh /Simmental” or “Simmental / Fleckvieh”, or similar, but the Dept Ag system in Ireland is for two letters to denote breed, with the third digit used to denote “cross bred” eg “SI” for Simmental and “SIX” for Simmental Cross at the moment. This will not change, so the only option on coding would be to go “FS”, “SF” or similar. This might not bring much more clarity to the situation, and might even confuse people, by linking Fleckvieh and Simmental in people’s minds.

#### 2. Herd Books – possibilities:

a. An alternative, which operates in most Countries, including the core origin countries of the breed – Austria, Germany and Switzerland, is that of One Breed, but operating separate Beef and Dairy Herd books.

b. This option, in the case of Ireland, and following the German model most closely, might look like the following:

- i. **“Beef Simmental”** Herd Book, replacing the current “Simmental” Herd Book, with all existing Pedigree Certs staying the same.

New Certs being issued with the “Beef Simmental” title, in the same colour and format as the existing ones.

### Key Points

A single Breed, because it’s just about impossible to split all the ancestors, past and future, into two separate Breeds.

Retain Breed Name as “Simmental”

Continue with “SI” for Blue card.

Separate Herd Books –

“Dairy Fleckvieh”

–  
“Beef Simmental”

- ii. **“Dairy Fleckvieh”** Herd Book, to be established with a different colour Cert being issued, and a dairy cow watermark replacing the beef bull watermark on the existing Simmental cert.

These certs would issue with the lactation data in a format similar to existing dairy certs in Ireland. A change in the format would require ICBF computer programming time and cost and is not feasible in the short term.

This Herd Book would only be open only to Dairy Farmers and to females being milked.

It could be split into divisions, to encourage farmers to become involved in grading-up to pure – bred:

#### Section “A”

Open to Dairy Fleckvieh, must be 87.5% + Pure Fleckvieh / Simmental, either Irish bred or imported. E.U. law is that cattle with 87.5% or more pure bred blood must be accepted as Pure Bred. Breed society’s are free to state the % of each breed on the certificate.

- a. In the case of Irish bred, only the progeny of “Dairy Fleckvieh” allowed.
- b. In the case of imports, the breeder must declare to the Society office whether the use is for Dairy or Beef and they go into the appropriate Herd Book then. Theoretically, two full siblings could be registered, one in the “Beef Simmental” and the other in the “Dairy Fleckvieh” Books.
- c. In the case of Bulls used for breeding, either natural service or AI, all 4 grandparents must be in Herd Book “A”. In the case of females, the Sire must be in “A”, but the Dam may be in Book “B”.

#### Section “B”

75% + “Dairy Fleckvieh” if Irish bred, and Fleckvieh/Simmental, if imported and being declared for milking purposes.

#### Section “C”

50% + “Dairy Fleckvieh” if Irish bred, and Fleckvieh/Simmental, if imported and being declared for milking purposes.

### 3. Transfers between Herd Books:

- a. For the purpose of the “Dairy Fleckvieh” herd book, “Beef Simmental” would be regarded as a beef breed, and so their progeny are demoted to Section “C”, or less. (ie. 100% Dairy Fleckvieh X Beef Simmental = 50% Dairy, so only section “C”. In a second example, Section “C” X Beef Simmental = 25% Dairy, so not even eligible to

Beef Herd Book rules as before.

“Dairy Fleckvieh”

“C” = ½ bred

“B” = ¾ Bred

“A” = Pure Bred

Not allowed use any Beef Simmental Bloodlines in the Dairy Herd Book

enter section “C”.)

This rule would effectively protect all “Dairy Fleckvieh” from being “contaminated” with any Beef bloodlines.

- b. For the purpose of the “Beef Simmental” Herd book, Section “A” Dairy Fleckvieh will be allowed transfer, as long as the breeder/purchaser is happy with their beef qualities and wishes to change the animal’s status from Milking to Suckling. Section “B” and “C” are not transferrable and are regarded as non-pure Bred for the purposes of the “Beef Simmental” Herd Book.

This rule would effectively allow good quality dual purpose Fleckvieh to be used to improve milk output in the Beef Simmental population.

4. Level of fees – Prefix, Annual membership, Pedigree Certs, Import (new pedigree) fee, Transfer fees.

To be discussed and agreed by the Simmental Council, taking into account:

- a. The level of work/time involved and cost of same
- b. The prevailing fees for Dairy pedigrees in other Society’s, particularly the main one – the Holstein Friesian.

Dairy registration fees, across all major breeds are significantly lower than for Beef Breeds, and if there is a desire to grow the “Dairy Fleckvieh” section, then fees need to match the competition.

Club Subscription fees, could be set by the “Dairy Fleckvieh Club” in order to accumulate funds for use in Promotion and Advertising, by the Club alone.

5. Organisation:

A single “Dairy Fleckvieh Club” could be established for the Country. Its role could be:

- i. Elect Representative to Council, as per existing Clubs, with the same rules for deciding on the number of Council seats – ie Minimum of one, and then according to membership numbers.
- ii. Agree & develop Dairy Fleckvieh Breed standard for Ireland
- iii. Agree /amend detail to go onto Pedigree Certificate / design.
- iv. Develop a Logo / Symbol for use to identify & promote Dairy Fleckvieh.
- v. Promotion and advertising – funding and agreeing actions.
- vi. Classification – who might do it, if required?
- vii. Development of promotional materials – Gate signs, Car stickers, etc.
- viii. Handling enquiries from potential new breeders ?

Allowed to transfer “A” Dairy Fleckvieh to Beef Book. Fleckvieh imports can also enter Beef Book, as now.

Fees need to be lower for “Dairy Fleckvieh”, in line with competing breeds.

A single “Dairy” Club could be set up, to elect representative/s to Council, and to decide Policy & Strategy and to run promotion

No need for big rule changes to allow this.