

Benefits Of The Ayrshire Breed

The Ayrshire breed has the ability to adapt to any system, be it high input or low input.

High Input Systems

Require to have robust animals with plenty of strength, sound conformation through their mammary system, good legs and feet whilst at the same time be free from disease and infection with good wearability. The Ayrshire can provide all of these traits through the varied genetics available on offer. They can convert forage efficiently and can produce high yields of top quality milk without the need for huge expense on high protein supplement feeding. The top UK herds on high input systems are producing the following results: Top 5%: 10,108 kgs, 4.90% bf, 3.65% ptn, with combined bf and ptn of 740 kgs in 305 days. Top 25%: 8,103 kgs, 4.39% bf, 3.44% ptn, with combined bf and ptn of 600 kgs in 305 days.



Low Input Systems

Ayrshires are very popular for these systems in the UK, and around the world due to their excellent foraging ability. They don't suffer from extreme climates as the heat is less likely to effect them as their colour does not absorb the heat. In cold conditions their thick skin will protect them from the ailments, and so because of this they are the ultimate grazing cow here in the UK, and many parts of Scandinavia.

You can see the Ayrshire at its best grazing in Northern Ireland, the South West, Derbyshire and in Staffordshire. Rough and steep terrain and hard tracks are no bother for them due to their excellent feet and legs and superb locomotion. Ayrshires are generally medium sized which suit grazing systems especially in wet locations, as they are less likely to cause damage to pastures. Their tremendous body conformation and udder ensures they are working for many years, thus enabling a smaller number of replacements being required each year. This in turn allows an added income of dairy heifers to sell, or a larger proportion of beef being able to be used to enhance income. Their width through the rump also ensures calving is easy with less trauma to the cow, so enabling them to produce high quality milk immediately after calving. Average UK herds on grazing and low input systems is as follows: 7,037 kgs, 4.10% bf, 3.31% ptn in 305 days.

10 Advantages Of Using An Ayrshire

1. Excellent functional type.
2. Efficient forage conversion.
3. Aggressive grazing ability.
4. Excellent mobility.
5. Superb udders built to last.
6. Dairy character with strength.
7. Reduced veterinary costs.
8. Freedom from disease and infection.
9. High fertility and easy calving.
10. High longevity.

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