

# AYRSHIRE CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Ayrshire SA



## INFORMATION

The Ayrshire originated in the district of Ayr in the south-west of Scotland and was regarded as an established breed by 1812.

The Ayrshire Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa currently has 44 breeders, owning more than 14 000 registered females. A total of 21 milk producers supply milk to processors including Clover, Rhodes Food Group, and Fair Cape and Fairfield Dairies.

Ayrshire cows have an excellent feed conversion ratio through optimised grazing. An exceptional cow recently produced 15 195 kg of milk during lactation, and a 21-year-old Ayrshire produced 128 000 kg of milk in her lifetime. On average, 9 260 kg of milk is produced per lactation and Ayrshire cows often last six or more lactations.

An Ayrshire's near-perfect conformation and udder result in longevity and economic value. Being high in components, Ayrshire milk is referred to as "the ideal drinking milk", and also gives exceptional cheese. Locally

and abroad, Woolworths stocks a range of Ayrshire products.

As an easy adapter, Ayrshires function in warm and cold climates. Interestingly, Russia has the most Ayrshire cows. In Kenya's tropical climate, 67% of dairy cattle are Ayrshires.

Recent genomic herd tests by the society have shown good results and some of the world's best Ayrshire genetics. Semen imports started in 1960 and local breeders have imported the best bulls money could buy from Scotland since 1918. Top local female families go back to direct importations. At the current rate, the local Ayrshire herd could become a significant source of genetic material, which may surpass the numbers of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Please visit our website at [www.ayrshire.co.za](http://www.ayrshire.co.za) for more information on membership, the breed calendar (auctions, annual general meetings, shows, and events), and current board members.

