UGANDA CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (UCSATP)

SPECIFICATIONS FOR IN-CALF HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN HEIFER



1. General Identification

- **Breed:** Holstein Friesian of at least 75% genetic purity.
- **Age:** 18–24 months.
- **Identification:** RFID ear-tagged, with traceable pedigree (sire, dam and AI details).
- **Hide Colour:** Predominantly black and white, with clearly defined black-and-white patches;
- **Muzzle Colour:** Predominantly black or dark muzzle, with a well-defined nose and healthy nasal area.
- **Face Appearance:** Long, relatively narrow and slightly dished face, with prominent, bright eyes and medium-sized, alert ears.
- **Breed Characteristics:** Well-defined dairy character, angular body, prominent milk veins and good overall dairy conformation.

2. Physical and Conformation Attributes

- **Live Body Weight:** 400–500 kg, depending on age, stage of pregnancy and frame size.
- **Frame & Structure:** Straight and strong topline with a well-balanced, deep and long body.

- **Body length:** Approximately 160–175 cm from shoulder to pin/hip region.Deep and well-sprung ribs with adequate abdominal capacity, characteristic of a high-performing dairy animal.
- **Level and strong back and loin:** Broad, slightly sloping rump with adequate width between the hooks and pins.
- **Height at withers:** Approximately 135–145 cm. Good dairy wedge-shaped body, with greater depth and width toward the rear. Adequate pelvic width to facilitate normal calving.

Legs, Feet and Hooves

- Strong, correctly positioned legs with sound joints and strong pasterns.
- **Leg length:** Approximately 60–70 cm from hip region to hoof.Legs should be straight when viewed from the front and rear, with appropriate hock angulation.
- **Hock angle:** Approximately 145–155°, with no excessive sickle-hock or post-legged conformation.
- **Strong, well-shaped hooves, free from cracks, deformities, lesions or signs of lameness.**
- **Hoof size:** Approximately 11–14 cm long × 9–11 cm wide, proportionate to body size.
- Animals must walk freely and normally without stiffness or lameness.

Udder & Teats

- Well-developed, capacious udder appropriate for a dairy breed and stage of pregnancy.
- Udder should be firmly attached, symmetrical and free from abnormalities.
- Strong median and lateral suspensory ligaments.
- Four normally developed and evenly positioned quarters.
- Four functional, evenly spaced teats of appropriate length and diameter.
- Teats should be cylindrical, properly positioned and free from deformities, supernumerary teats or evidence of previous injury.
- Udder and teats should be free from mastitis, swelling, fibrosis or other abnormalities.
- The udder should show good potential for post-calving milk production without excessive pendulousness.

General Health and Fitness

- Bright, alert and active, with good body condition appropriate for an in-calf dairy heifer.
- Body Condition Score: Approximately 3.0–3.5/5 at the time of delivery.
- Free from visible infectious, contagious or hereditary diseases.
- Free from lameness and major structural defects.
- Good appetite and normal rumination.
- No evidence of chronic respiratory, digestive or reproductive disorders.
- Must have a sound reproductive history and be confirmed pregnant by an accredited veterinarian.

3. Reproductive / Physiological Specifications

- **Pregnancy Stage:** In-calf heifer; first-calving heifer. Minimum 2 months and not more than 6 months in-calf, preferably bred by AI, or a proven Jersey bull. Confirmed pregnant by qualified veterinarian/ultrasonography
- **Service Details:** Documented sire, service date, and expected calving date.

4. Pedigree and Performance Records

- **Pedigree:** Three-generation pedigree showing parentage.
- **Milk Production Background:**
    - Dam: Minimum 4,000 liters per lactation
    - Sire: Proven high genetic merit.

5. Health and Management Standards

- **Disease status:** Healthy and clinically normal. Certification that animals are free from FMD, Brucellosis, Lumpy skin disease, CBPP, and all reproductive diseases of cattle.
- **Parasite control:** Recent internal/external parasite control documented.
- **Vaccination:** Complete vaccination records

6. Inland Transport

- Animals shall be transported in approved livestock trucks to the quarantine station.
- Vehicles must be disinfected before and after loading, and provide:
    - Proper ventilation and weather protection.
    - Non-slip flooring and partitions to prevent overcrowding or injury.
- Maximum journey duration to quarantine: not more than 8 hours.

7. Quarantine Procedures

- All activities at the quarantine station shall be at the expense of the supplier.
- **Duration:** Minimum 21 days in an approved MAAIF quarantine station.
- **Purpose:** Disease surveillance, acclimatization, and re-vaccination as required.
- Activities during quarantine shall include:
    - Daily veterinary monitoring and record-keeping.
    - Deworming, ectoparasite control, and booster vaccinations.
    - Isolation of sick animals and immediate reporting of abnormalities.

8. Veterinary Certification Requirements

Each consignment must be accompanied by:

1. **Laboratory test results** confirming disease-free status.
2. **Vaccination record**, including vaccine type, batch number, and date.
3. **Pregnancy confirmation** (2–6 months in-calf).
4. **Parentage verification** and source farm documents.