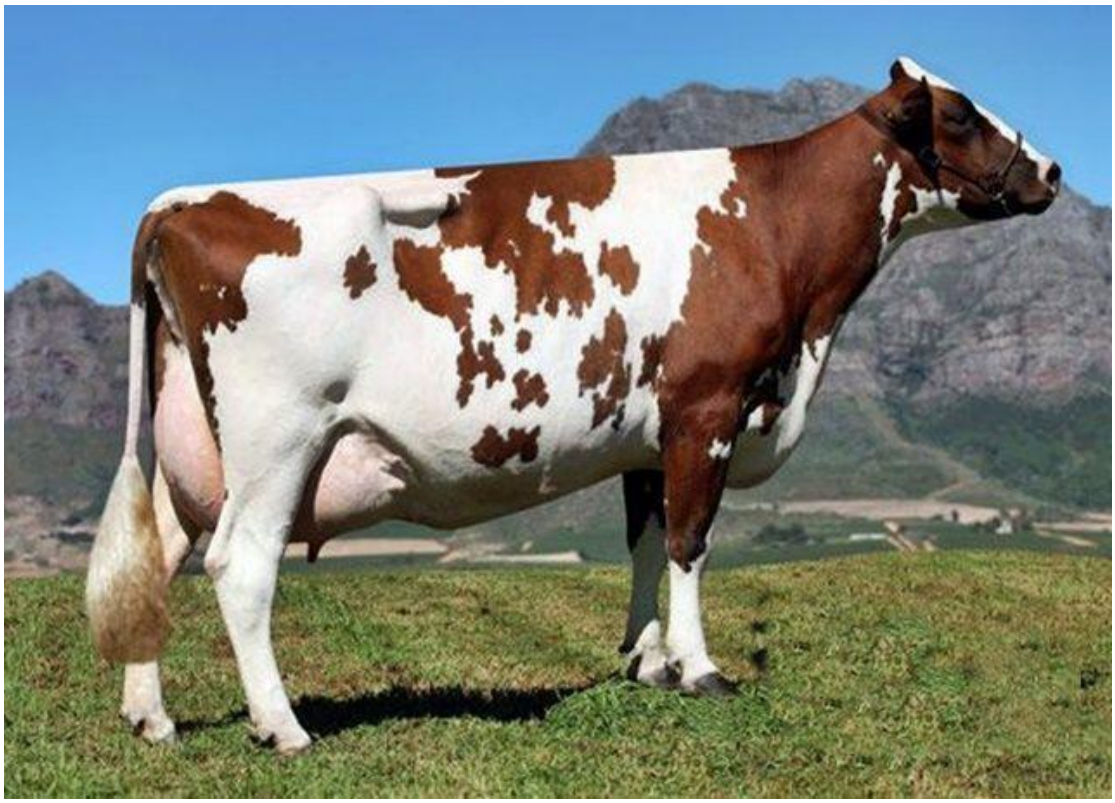
UGANDA CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (UCSATP)

SPECIFICATIONS FOR IN-CALF AYRSHIRE HEIFER



1. General Identification

- **Breed:** Ayrshire 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 red and white, with clearly defined red/brown and white patches; colour may range from light reddish-brown to deep mahogany.
- **Muzzle Colour:** Predominantly dark or reddish-brown muzzle, with a well-defined nose and healthy nasal area.
- **Face Appearance:** Moderately long and refined face, with a straight to slightly dished facial profile, prominent bright eyes and alert, medium-sized ears.
- **Breed Characteristics:** Well-defined dairy character, angular body, prominent milk veins, good body capacity and strong overall dairy conformation.

2. Physical and Conformation Attributes

- **Live Body Weight:** 350–450 kg, depending on age, stage of pregnancy and frame size.

- **Frame & Structure:** Straight and strong topline with a well-balanced, moderately long and deep body.
- **Body Length:** Approximately 150–165 cm from shoulder to pin/hip region. Deep and well-sprung ribs with adequate abdominal capacity, characteristic of a productive dairy animal.
- **Back and Loin:** Level and strong back and loin; broad, slightly sloping rump with adequate width between the hooks and pins.
- **Height at Withers:** Approximately 125–135 cm. Good dairy wedge-shaped body, with increasing depth and width towards 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 55–65 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 10–13 cm long × 8–10 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.

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 by a proven Ayrshire bull. Confirmed pregnant by a 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 litres 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 and 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.