



**L O W L I N E**

## **AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION Inc.**

C/- ABRI, University of New England

ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Website: [www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

Phone: (02) 67 73 3295 Fax: (02) 67 72 1943

Email: [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

ABN: 98216776682

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### **AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION INC.**

## **SHOWING OF CATTLE By-Law 11**

### **GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS**

#### **Important notes:**

By-Law 11.1. states that owners and handlers of Australian Lowline animals are to ensure that all the requirements, regulations and other directions of organising Show Societies in which they enter Lowline animals are complied with, particularly in respect of requirements for registration and/or eligibility for registration with ALCA and in the correctness of documentation for their entry.

By-Law 11.2. states that any Australian Lowline animal shown in any Royal or any other Show as a Breed other than Lowline will thereafter not be able to be shown as an Australian Lowline. This does not limit Lowlines from being shown in classes titled "Other Breeds" or similar where a show does not provide separate classes for Australian Lowline animals. However, if an Australian Lowline animal is shown as a different breed, its registration with ALCA will not be affected in any other way including the ability to register progeny with ALCA if all the other criteria are met.

At present there are three main forms of showing: -

#### **Royal and District/Town Shows.**

Conducted by Agricultural and Local Show societies.

#### **Hook and Hoof Competitions, Carcase Competitions**

These form part of major shows, but some are also conducted in local districts and supported by such bodies as the Department of Agriculture and Meat Standards Australia (MSA).

#### **Expositions and Field Days.**

These events have been a more recent development and there are now several conducted in each State. They are generally conducted by local co-operatives and most have an educational theme. Some are sponsored by the Royal Agricultural Societies and the Department of Agriculture in each State supports most.

#### **1. Royal and District/Town Shows.**

These events, which cover a very broad spectrum of rural production and life, provide a venue for competition to determine the best exhibit, under the expert eyes of competent and experienced judges.

## **Entries**

Entry must be in writing and usually on the relevant show society's entry form, which are available in the form of a Show Schedule.

Royal Show entries close approx. three months prior to judging.

Once entered any withdrawal must be in writing and accompanied by a Veterinary Surgeon certificate. Failure to comply may result in the exhibitor being fined.

Entry in district/Town shows will vary from approx. one month in advance to on the day.

## **Length of Stay & Accommodation**

Royal Shows:

- Average of six days although some States require champions to stay longer.
- Accommodation at the showgrounds is often available for a fee and cooking facilities are generally available to exhibitors.

District/Town:

- Usually one or two days.
- Camping facilities on the showgrounds is often available to exhibitors for a small fee.

## **Schedules**

Are issued by all show societies and cover in detail the conditions of entry including exhibit identification, management of exhibits, breed inspections, promotion and advertising, animal health and perhaps most importantly, the classes and groups for each breed.

It is the exhibitors or their representative's responsibility to read and abide by all conditions of entry.

## **Exhibits**

All exhibits must be pure breed and registered with a recognised Breed Society and have clear/readable tattoos. Calves at foot must also be tattooed prior to their arrival onto the show ground. In the case of steers (and with the exception of Sydney Show) cross breeds may be accepted.

Bulls over the age of 12 months must have a nose ring and when being led must be securely held with both a lead rope and rope attached to the nose ring. When being led in the show ring or exercise area females must have a nose clip fitted and be securely led with both a lead rope and rope attached to the nose clip. When tethered in their stalls all animals must be secured by both a halter rope and neck rope.

## **Inspections**

Normally only take place at Royal Shows and are conducted prior to judging by the show society and/or a representative of the breed. The inspectors have the right to remove any animal from competition if it does not meet with the rules as stated in the show schedule.

### **Weighing and Scanning**

Royal Shows. Most societies require entered bulls and steers to be weighed and scanned prior to judging. Exhibit breastplates must accompany the bulls and steers to weighing and scanning. Failure to comply may result in your animal being ineligible for exhibition.

### **Breed Captain**

Most Royal shows appoint a Breed Captain to assist the Chief Steward in communicating with exhibitors during the show. If you have any concerns or questions they should be directed to your Breed Captain. In the case of the Breed Captain not being able to resolve the problem he/she will take the matter up with the Shed Captain or Chief Steward on your behalf.

### **Judging**

Exhibits shall be present at the appropriate judging ring and ready to enter the judging ring at the time specified in the timetable.

All exhibits must be wearing their issued identification breastplate.

Stewards will direct the flow of animals into the ring. Exhibits shall enter the ring immediately upon request by the appropriate steward.

Only the person leading the exhibit may enter the judging ring.

Persons in charge of exhibits at or in the judging ring shall not address the judge unless authorised by the steward in charge or the judge himself.

All attendants leading stock in the judging ring must wear uniform white coats or approved breed uniform. White coats or breed uniforms, including caps must in no way show any insignia or any descriptive markings indicating the exhibitor's name and/or stud name or prefix. Australian Lowline breed uniform guidance is available at [ALCA Showing Uniform](#)

### **Preparation of Exhibits**

Most shows will have dedicated wash bays that have restriction on use depending on the health status of your exhibit. Some shows are now introducing dedicated areas for clipping and blow-drying. When using these facilities, often referred to as 'clipping frames', you should be considerate of other exhibitors. Vacate the wash bay as soon as possible, look at the proximity of others before using blowers and clean up when you have finished clipping.

### **Name Boards/Header Cards**

At Royal Shows each animal must have its details recorded and visibly displayed on a Name Board/Header Card. The required details are EXHIBIT NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, DAM AND SIRE DETAILS. These details should be the same as those that appear on the registration papers. ALCA has a template for header cards, downloadable from the members area/form on the ALCA website.

## **Promotion**

Each Show Society may have different regulations so check your schedule.

In most cases promotion is encouraged by show societies but only by exhibitors or the breed society.

Stud signs are allowed to be displayed usually in the area allocated to exhibitors to house their animals, although restrictions may be placed on the size of the sign.

## **2. Hoof and Hook Competitions**

This competition is conducted in two parts: -

**Hoof:** The animal is judged live, either in the ring for Led Steers/Heifers or in a pen for Commercial Steers/Heifers. Points are given for each animal on how the judge believes the carcass will present.

After judging the animals are usually auctioned before being sent to the abattoir for judging on the hook.

**Hook:** The carcass is judged and points are awarded for Market Specifications and Saleability, Yield of Saleable Meat and Eating Quality.

The result of all exhibits including points scored for carcasses are then published.

This is an excellent way to gain data on what our cattle are achieving and assist in targeting specific markets.

## **3. Expositions and Field Days**

These days are designed to provide venues for exhibitors from all areas of the agricultural industry to show and demonstrate their wares with a view of making sales and are usually based on education.

Field days are of short duration (usually two to three days). Some field days are restricted to breed society displays only but most will also allow individuals to exhibit. Judging is rarely conducted. Prospectuses can be obtained from the relevant organisers that will cover all requirements.

Field days are an excellent way of gaining exposure for the breed. ALCA can provide official Association promotional material which may be handed out during the event. In the interest of the breed, and the Association as a whole, the exhibited animals should be sound in body and health and presented in show condition.

#### **4. In summary**

Exhibiting either at a field day or in the show ring is an excellent way to meet like-minded people. Much can be learned by talking to fellow exhibitors and listening to judges comments.

It should be remembered that when attending these events you are not only representing your stud but also the society as a whole. Be a gracious winner or loser. "Congratulations" and "Thank you" are very easy to say. None of what has been written replaces or over-rides any rules and regulations written by a Show Society, but rather it is aimed to supplement such rules and regulations.

**Showing should be fun and enjoyable as well as serious business!! It also presents a wonderful opportunity to speak with other breeders who are generally more than happy to share their experiences and pass on any tips. This is a great way to learn if you are new to the showing.**