

AMERICAN MILKING SHORTHORN BLACK HAIR POLICY

1. To be eligible to be shown a Milking Shorthorn base hair color must be red, white or roan (red and white intermixed). No other base color is allowed.
2. Disqualifications for color beyond the proceeding include animals that are brindled with diffuse black hairs on locations other than the edge of the ear, edge of the muzzle or nape of shoulder, or animals that have more than one location with black hair on other parts of the body.
3. “Black Hair” for purpose of these rules refers to hair that is black the entire length of the shaft to the root.
4. Minimal black hair described as “ticking” around the edge of the ears, edge of the muzzle and shoulder nape is permissible.
5. An animal is eligible to be shown if they have no more than one “spot” of black hair smaller than four square inches.
6. “Black Spot” refers to areas of solid black hair or to areas of black roan with diffuse white or red hairs intermixed.
7. Measurement is made around the distinct edge of the area in question.
8. If an animal has one spot larger than four square inches, or more than one spot, they are ineligible to be shown.
9. Any animal with one spot smaller than four square inches that is to be shown must be blood/DNA typed for parental identification. If parental ID is confirmed the animal is eligible thereafter for all show and National awards.
10. Any animal the Executive Secretary examines and finds to have one or multiple black spots, irregardless of eligibility for showing, are required to be blood/DNA typed for parental identification to maintain registry status.
11. As there exists a lack of uniformity in varying show venues across the country in response to enforcement of the Black Hair rule, the Board of AMSS has stipulated the following. Only the Executive Secretary of the American Milking Shorthorn Society or AMSS Breed Representative shall have authority in determining eligibility of animals under the Black Hair Rule.
12. When the Executive Secretary of the American Milking Shorthorn Society or AMSS Breed Representative is in attendance at a National Show, or if she/he are at any other venue in which Milking Shorthorns are being exhibited as registered cattle in the AMSS Herd Book, she/he may, at their discretion, or at the request of either the owner of an animal or other exhibitor, examine an animal for eligibility due to the above color requirements or other considerations.

