# National Fold Competition

**Purpose**

The purpose of the National Fold Competition is two-fold: it promotes, interest in and awareness of the Highland Cattle breed in its natural state to the general public and other farming sectors, as well as allowing breeders to showcase their fold to new and existing breeders and demonstrate sound stock husbandry and herd management.

The National Fold competition was a Breed Development initiative, whose objective is to ensure the breed is developed in such a way to ensure the successful marketing and sales of Highland Cattle and Highland Beef.

**Structure**

The structure of the competition is all-inclusive. We want to encourage all folds, large or small, to take part in this competition. A large fold is a fold with 11 cows or more and a small fold is a fold with 10 cows or less.

**Regional Fold Competition judging criteria**

The Regional Fold Competition has been designed to suit every breeder’s needs. The judges will evaluate the fold as a whole, taking into account the quality of the stock, husbandry skills and herd management. The judge will be looking for an even, balanced, and consistent fold. The cattle must be in good condition with good conformation, displaying excellent locomotion and sound feet. The cows should be healthy, functional, and milky, with thriving calves at foot.

Within their assessment however they will be looking not only for the best large fold and best small fold but also, they will be judging a further six categories within the competition:

* Best group of calves by the same sire
* Best group of pure highland cows with pure calves
* Best group of pure highland cows with cross calves
* Best group of heifers
* Best stock bull
* Best cow with calf @ foot (to be nominated by the regional judge)

The Regional Competition will be organised by your nearest Highland Cattle Club. The Highland Cattle Society suggests an entry fee of up to £40 per fold. All entry fees will be kept by the local club to assist with the travelling expenses of the judge.

**Timing**

Each Highland Cattle Club will arrange the regional competition to suit the availability of the selected judge. However, the needs of the breeders will also be taken into account where possible. The deadline for the completion of all regional judging is 2 September 2024.

**Regional judges**

The regional judge will be selected by the area Highland Cattle Club. Ideally this judge should be from out of the area. However, clubs can specify a judge from within the area provided there is no vested interest in any of the folds being judged.

**The National Final**

All the regional small fold and large fold winners will go head-to-head in a National Final, which will be judged by Andrew Kirkpatrick from 6 to 23September 2024. The winners of the two categories will be announced at the Annual Members Meeting in October.

**Entry Form**

**Please return to your Club Secretary by 15 JUNE 2024**

Fold name:

Breeder name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone number:

Mobile number:

Number of animals in the fold:

Briefly describe the history, aims and objectives of your fold:

I would like to enter the above into the National Fold Competition and I enclose a

cheque for the entry fee made out to:

 …………………………………………………………………………....

Please return to:

……………………………………………………………………………..