

Classifying Brahmousin Cattle for Registration

The Brahmousin program presents an excellent opportunity for cattlemen to take advantage of the complimentary traits of the Limousin and Brahman cattle breeds. Brahmousin cattle combine the hardiness, mothering ability, and longevity of the Brahman with the leanness, efficiency, and muscling of the Limousin. Brahmousin blends the best of both breeds giving its producers the best of both worlds.

Development of the breed is carried out by the American Brahmousin Council, an organization of Brahmousin breeders who work together in promotional efforts such as advertising, field days, shows, etc. The American Brahmousin Council (ABC) headquartered in Whitesboro, Texas, maintains the herd book and issues and transfers the cattle registrations for the association's membership.

The combination of Limousin and Brahman is ideal for southern parts of the United States where heat and insect tolerance is important. Brahmousin cattle will no doubt have the most superior carcass of any of the Brahman crossbreeds because of the extra muscling and leanness of the Limousin. The hardiness of the Brahman coupled with the efficiency and muscling of the Limousin, is a winning combination. Also, with five-eighths (5/8) Limousin and only three-eighths (3/8) Brahman composing the purebred Brahmousin, they can easily adapt to northern climatic conditions as well as southern regions.

The 5/8-3/8 "purebred" percentage is generally accepted as the most effective ratio to achieve the beneficial traits of the two breeds. However, because of varying environmental conditions and different goals and needs of breeders, the organizers of the ABC chose not to stipulate a fixed percentage ratio of Limousin to Brahman blood for registration. Consequently, the ABC requires only a minimum of 1/4 blood of each breed to permit registration in the herd book. This registration flexibility allows breeders to target the blood percentage necessary for their individual climate, breeding program, and/or their customer requirements.

CLASSIFICATION OF BRAHMOUSIN CATTLE

It is important that the Brahmousin breeder understand what constitutes the make-up or percentages of his cattle in order to make the proper breeding decisions. Mating the cattle to achieve the purebred 5/8-3/8 percentages can be accomplished with a number of different Brahman and Limousin crosses. The following terms provide a definition of the classification or make-up of the cattle that can be used within a Brahmousin breeding program.

1. Foundation Brahman

Brahman cattle recorded with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring under the Brahmousin program. (No certificates are issued on Foundation Brahman cattle.)

a. Foundation Percentage Brahman

These females are recorded with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring as "percentage Brahmousin" or "purebred Brahmousin." Eligible animals are:

A registered female of one of the Brahman-cross breed associations must be comprised of not less than 3/8 Brahman. A Brahman female that is not registered with the American Brahman Breeders Association or one of the Brahman-cross breed associations may be considered as a 3/8 "foundation percentage Brahman female," if the owner will submit an affidavit stating that she is at least 3/8 Brahman and identify each individual in his herd with a permanent identification – either ear tattoos, hot brands, or freeze brands.

Affidavit forms must be obtained through the ABC office.

No Brahman bulls are recorded under the foundation percentage Brahman program.

b. Foundation Purebred Brahman

These bulls and females are *recorded* with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring as "purebred Brahmousin" or "percentage Brahmousin" within the herd book. Eligible animals are:

1. A registered purebred Brahman female.
2. A registered purebred Brahman bull.
3. A Brahman female that has been inspected by the American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) and qualified to be a purebred Brahman will be considered as a "foundation purebred Brahman female," if the owner will submit a statement of qualification from the ABBA and if each cow is permanently identified with either an individual fire brand or tattoo.

2. Foundation Limousin

a. Foundation Percentage Limousin

Percentage Limousin cattle recorded with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring under the Brahmousin program. (No certificates are issued on Foundation Limousin cattle.) These females are recorded with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring as "percentage Brahmousin."

An unregistered Limousin cow may be considered as a 3/8 "foundation percentage Limousin female," if the owner will complete and submit an affidavit along with photographs stating that she is at least 3/8 Limousin. Each individual in his herd must be identified with a permanent identification - either ear tattoos, hot brands, or freeze brands.

The foundation percentage Limousin cow must be bred to a purebred Brahmousin bull or a percentage 1/4 Limousin - 3/4

Brahman, or a 3/8 Limousin - 5/8 Brahman in order to qualify the resulting calf for registration.

3. Cattle From Registered Limousin and Registered Brahman Sires and Dams

a. Initial Entry Limousin Brahman F-1 Cattle

Limousin or Brahman cattle recorded with the ABC for the purpose of registering their offspring under the Brahmousin program. Applicable cattle are first cross cattle resulting from mating of registered purebred or fullblood Limousin and registered Brahman sires and dams. The initial entry registration is restricted to F-1 cattle under the following requirements for registration.

1. The original breeder of the cattle is to provide an affidavit (accompanied by a \$10.00 fee) attesting to the Brahman or Limousin mating to be a first cross from a registered Limousin or Brahman sire or dam.
2. Include a copy of the Brahman and Limousin registration certificates of the sire and dam of the F-1 progeny submitted for registration. Under these conditions the one-time entry fee for the sire and dam is waived.
3. Identify each individual in his herd with a permanent identification - either ear tattoos, hot brands, or freeze brands.
4. Submit the appropriate application entry fee based on the age of the animal.

4. Purebred Limousin

4. Brahmousin

a. Percentage Brahmousin

All Brahmousin animals that are *not* 5/8 Limousin 3/8 Brahman, but do maintain a minimum of 1/4 Limousin and a minimum of 1/4 Brahman breeding, based upon the official charts for determining percentage.

1. Foundation Cows of Other Breeds

A breeder may use any cow of his choosing from any breed as long as a registered purebred Brahmousin bull is used and the resulting progeny is at least 1/4 Limousin and 1/4 Brahman. The progeny of these animals will be registered as percentage Brahmousin.

Under these circumstances, when registering a calf from a cow that is from another breed, the breeder must provide the ABC with sufficient data that identifies the cow so that calving records and other data can be maintained on the cow. The owner must identify each individual animal in the herd with a permanent identification – either ear tattoos, hot brands, or freeze brands.

A one-time enrollment fee for *recording* the cow within the ABC herd book is assessed at \$10.00. This fee is in addition to the regular registration charge for the calf.

b. Purebred Brahmousin

All Brahmousin cattle that are 5/8 Limousin and 3/8 Brahman, based upon the official charts for determining percentage.

BRAHMOUSIN REGISTRATION

Refer to the current ABC fee schedule for registration rates, animal transfer fees and other associated membership fees.

Acceptable bulls used within a Brahmousin breeding program sanctioned by the ABC are as follows:

- Registered percentage or purebred Brahmousin
- Registered purebred or full blood Limousin

- Registered purebred Brahman

No bull other than Brahmousin, Limousin, or Brahman as noted above, is approved for use in the ABC herd registry.

Animals that qualify as Brahmousin and are sired by a registered Limousin bull are eligible to be dual registered with both the ABC and NALF (North American Limousin Foundation). This enables their offspring to be recorded as either Brahmousin or Limousin. (See example 6 under "Determining Brahmousin Cattle Percentages" for further explanation.)

A copy of Brahman registration papers of registered Brahman sires and dams must be sent to the ABC so they can be entered into the Brahmousin program, and their calves can be registered as Brahmousin. There is a one-time fee for entering Brahman sires and dams into the ABC Brahmousin program:

Brahman Bulls	\$25
Registered Brahman Females	\$10
Foundation Brahman and Percentage Females (An affidavit from the owner must accompany the \$10 fee, stating the female is at least three-eighths Brahman, or a copy of a registration certificate.)	\$10
Certified Brahman Females (A letter from the ABBA certifying that the cow has been inspected and is a purebred Brahman must accompany the \$10 fee.)	\$10
Purebred/Full Blood Limousin Bulls	\$25
Purebred/Full Blood Limousin Females	\$10
Percentage Limousin Females	\$10

(The Limousin sires and dams must be registered with a national or international Limousin breed association.)

REGISTRATION PREFIXES

(Three letter prefixes which precede registration numbers identifying the classification of Limousin and Brahmousin)

1. North American Imports – Limousin
 - a. **NIM** - North American imported male
 - b. **NIF** - North American imported female
2. Born in North America, except Canada
 - a. Percentage Limousin
 - i. **NXF** - North American percentage female
 - ii. **NXM** - North American percentage male
 - b. Purebred Limousin
 - i. **NPF** - North American purebred female (87% and above)
 - ii. **NPM** - North American purebred male (93% and above)
3. Brahmousin Born in North America
 - a. Percentage Brahmousin
 - i. **BXF** - Brahmousin percentage female
 - ii. **BXM** - Brahmousin percentage male
 - b. Purebred Brahmousin
 - i. **BPF** - Brahmousin purebred female (5/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman)
 - ii. **BPM** - Brahmousin purebred male (5/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman)

4. Canadian Prefixes

- a. Imported Limousin
 - i. **CIF** - Canadian imported female
 - ii. **CIM** - Canadian imported male
- b. Canadian Full French Limousin
 - i. **CFF** - Canadian full French female
 - ii. **CFM** - Canadian full French male
- 5. **Canadian Domestic Purebred Limousin**
 - i. **CPF** - Canadian purebred female
 - ii. **CPM** - Canadian purebred male

MATING CHARTS FOR DETERMINING BRAHMOUSIN CATTLE PERCENTAGES

Refer to the ABC Mating Charts to determine the percentage Limousin in the offspring, first find the % of her dam across the top of the Limousin chart. Then find the % Limousin of the sire along the left hand side of the Limousin chart. Where the two intersect in the chart, it will indicate the % Limousin of the offspring. You then have to follow the same procedure for the % Brahman, using the Brahman chart.

In some instances the percentages are rounded up or down to the eighth agreed upon by the ABC.

Another way to look at the chart is to take the % of Limousin in your dam and go down the column to the % of Limousin you want in the calf. Then go across the chart to the left-hand side of the chart to determine what percentage the bull needs to be in order to produce the desired offspring.

The following examples will show you how to use the charts:

1. Dam is 3/4 Limousin, 1/4 Brahman and the Sire is 1/2 Limousin, 1/2 Brahman

Using the Limousin chart, find a 3/4 Limousin dam across the top. Then find 1/2 Limousin sire on the left. The offspring is 5/8 Limousin. Now take the Brahman chart, find a 1/4 Brahman dam across the top, and then find a 1/2 Brahman sire on the left. The offspring is 3/8 Brahman. The offspring being 5/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman, therefore, would be registered as a purebred Brahmousin.

2. Dam is 3/8 Brahman, rest unknown Sire is 3/4 Limousin, 1/4 Brahman

Using the Limousin chart, find dam with zero Limousin blood, then find a 3/4 Limousin sire on the left. The offspring is 3/8 Limousin. Now take the Brahman chart; find dam across the top that is 3/8 Brahman, then find sire on the left that is 1/4 Brahman. The offspring is 3/8 Brahman. Therefore, the calf is 3/8 Limousin 3/8 Brahman and 1/4 unknown. This animal would be registered as a percentage Brahmousin.

3. Dam is 3/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman, 1/4 unknown -- What sire should we breed this cow to?

Start with the Limousin chart. Find a 3/8 Limousin dam at the top. Now go down this column looking for 5/8, since that is the final % Limousin we desire. If the sire is 3/4, 7/8 or purebred Limousin, the calf would be 5/8 Limousin.

Now go to the Brahman chart. Find a 3/8 Brahman dam at the top of the chart. Go down this column until you find 3/8 Brahman, which is the needed percentage for a purebred Brahmousin. The sire must be 1/4, 3/8 or 1/2 Brahman to produce a 3/8 calf out of a 3/8 cow.

Now compare the results of the two tables to determine the exact sire needed to produce a purebred Brahmousin calf. The sire must be 3/4, 7/8 or purebred Limousin and 1/4, 3/8 or 1/2 Brahman. The only combination that will give you both of these requirements is the 3/4 Limousin 1/4 Brahman.

Now let's look at what happens if the dam in the preceding example above was bred to a 5/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman.

4. Dam is 3/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman, 1/4 unknown

Sire is 5/8 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman

On the Limousin chart we start with the dam as 3/8. Then find the 1/2 Limousin sire. This makes the offspring 1/2 Limousin.

On the Brahman chart we find the 3/8 dam and the 3/8 sire. This makes the offspring 3/8 Brahman. In this case, the offspring is only a percentage Brahmousin, which is 1/2 Limousin and 3/8 Brahman. Now let's look at this offspring as a cow.

5. Dam 1/2 Limousin, 3/8 Brahman -- What sire should be used to get purebred Brahmousin?

On the Brahman chart find the 3/8 dam and go down to 3/8. The sire can be, 1/4, 3/8 or 1/2 Brahman.

The combinations of sires that are acceptable are:
5/8 Limousin 3/8 Brahman and 3/4 Limousin 1/4 Brahman.

You cannot record Limousin calves out of Brahmousin cows unless the cow is also recorded as a Limousin. An example would be a Brahmousin cow that is 3/4 Limousin and 1/4 Brahman and sired by a Brahmousin bull that is not dual registered. When this cow is bred back to a purebred Limousin bull, she does produce a 7/8 Limousin calf. However, this calf cannot be recorded as a 7/8 Limousin because the cow does not qualify for dual registration, and the calf cannot be recorded as a Brahmousin because he has less than 25 percent Brahman blood. The Limousin registration is set up based on the animal being sired by a registered Limousin bull. Therefore, the cow that is sired by the Brahmousin bull that is not dual registered does not qualify for dual registration, and since the cow cannot be registered as a Limousin, neither can her calf.