

Proposal for a grading system to be used to assess the adherence to standard of Nadudana cattle.

Draft 2: 02/01/24

Adopted by members: 23/01/24

Introduction:

This document presents a proposal for a grading system to be used by the Nadudana Association Australia for the grading of cattle with regard to their adherence to the breed standard. The breed standard for Nadudana Cattle can be found [here](#) and is included as Annex 1 to this proposal.

As part of the expansion of the Registry for Australian Nadudana, a proposal was adopted by the membership in early 2023 to create a new Appendix Registry to operate alongside the Main Registry for purebred Nadudana cattle. This new Registry system (see details [here](#)) requires a grading system to be applied in the following circumstances.

- The voluntary grading of pure-bred animals in the Full Registry as Class A or Class B
- The acceptance of animals with partial pedigree into the Full (Class A only) or Appendix Registry.
- The appearance registration of proposed Nadudana into the Appendix Registry

In these circumstances it is necessary to assess the animal in relation to its adherence to the Nadudana breed standard.

This proposal was adopted by NAA members at its general meeting on 23rd January 2024.

The proposed grading system

The following is proposed for the grading system.

The grading committee

It is proposed that the grading is carried out, on the basis of information submitted by the owners, by a grading committee. The grading committee, to be nominated and formed by the NAA Management Committee, should have a minimum of four members and the members shall be qualified cattle graders. Members of the NAA are not eligible as members of the committee and thus the grading committee will be independent of the Association. The members of the grading committee may be paid for grading services by the NAA as required.

The grading process

The following should apply to the grading process.

- The owner of the animal submits a grading application (see application details below) to the registrar
- The registrar submits details of the grading application (see details below) to the grading committee members anonymously, with no identification provided of the applicant or the animal.

- Members of the grading committee shall provide independently a grading score, according to a set of agreed criteria, to the registrar.
- Grades must be submitted by a minimum of three members of the grading committee.
- An average grade for the graded animal shall be calculated based on averaging the scores provided by each member of the grading committee.
- If all members of the grading committee are in agreement on the scores for a particular animal (i.e. classify in the same grade and total score variation of no more than 15% between the graders), the registrar applies the grade and registers the animal accordingly.
- If all members of the grading committee are not in agreement on the scores for a particular animal (they are graded in a different grade or the score varies by more than 15% across all members) the grading members of the committee shall meet to agree a final committee grade for the animal.
- The decision of the grading committee shall be final

Information to be provided with grading application

The grading will be done on the basis of information and pictures provided by the owner of the animal. The information to be provided and related guidance is provided in [Annex 1](#)[Annex 2](#)

Grade scoring

The members of the grading committee will complete a grading score sheet based on the information and the pictures provided by the owner according to the grading score sheet shown in

Annex 3. The scoring sheets allocates relatively more points to traits considered to be vital to the characteristics of the breed. A total of 110 points can be allocated to bulls and 100 points to heifers and cows. This applies to horned animals and includes a score for the horns. For dehorned animals, the corresponding maximum scores are 105 and 95. The grading system calls for allocating three classes of grade to animals based on the points score and it is proposed that the scores be allocated as follows (subject to review following an initial grading trial).

Class	Males horned	Males dehorned	Females horned	Females dehorned
Class A (≥80%)	≥ 88 points	≥ 84 points	≥ 80 points	≥ 76 points
Class B (50-79%)	55-87 points	53-83 points	50-79 points	48-75 points
Unqualified (<50%)	< 55 points	< 53 points	<50 points	<48 points

Initiation and review

When a version of this proposed grading system is agreed by the members of NAA it is proposed that the grading committee is formed by the Management Committee and that the grading committee meets to discuss and agree its approach to grading based on the accepted proposal and guidance provided including the scoring system. It is further proposed that a trial run be conducted with a minimum of five animals. For this trial the members of the committee will grade animals independently and then meet to discuss their respective grades. This process should assist in harmonisation and standardization of grading. Once implemented the grading system will be reviewed after 12 months of implementation.

Grading eligibility fee

Grading shall be open only to members of the NAA. **There will be a grading fee to be set by the management committee and will, at a minimum, meet the costs of the members of the grading committee.** The grading fee is to be paid in advance and is non-refundable.

Annex 1 Revised Nadudana breed standard (adopted September 2023)

Trait	Trait Description
Size	<p><i>Height below 107cm, measured at the shoulder at 3 years of age. Size above 91cm preferred. Mature bulls generally 230-280kg, mature cows 180-230kg.</i></p> <p><i><u>Specific Fault:</u> More than 112cm.</i></p> <p><i><u>Disqualification:</u> Cattle identified to be carrying a dwarfism gene.</i></p>
General appearance	<p><i>A robust, active, well-proportioned, balanced and muscled, dual-purpose animal. Bulls masculine and cows feminine.</i></p>
Body	<p><i>Good length of barrel, proportionate to height, rib cage well rounded.</i></p>
Forequarters	<p><i>Shoulders muscular and free moving, giving width of chest with room for heart and lung with well-developed brisket.</i></p>
Hindquarters	<p><i>General shape above hock joint is round, moderately wide at the pins. Rump broad, strong and rounded but not overly muscled.</i></p>
Legs and Feet	<p><i>Leg medium length and well proportioned. To show some strength of bone. Short pasterns and hard, small, black hooves with equal halves and small cleft. Brown hooves acceptable.</i></p>
Head	<p><i>Moderately long coffin-shaped skull, orbital arches not prominent, slightly convex in profile with prominent forehead. Bulls slightly more masculine.</i></p> <p><i><u>Disqualification:</u> Wry face., undershot jaw.</i></p>
Horns	<p><i>Relatively short horned (~30cm/12"), balanced and symmetrical, curving outward and upwards, although straight, forward pointing or downswept is seen. Often more slender and/or shorter in cows. De-horning allowable. Poll cattle accepted but not preferred.</i></p>
Eyes	<p><i>Almond shaped, medium to large, dark, luminous, with soft expression.</i></p>
Ears	<p><i>Set horizontal to head and pointed.</i></p> <p><i><u>Specific fault:</u> Long or pendulous ears.</i></p>
Neck	<p><i>Strong and medium length.</i></p>
Hump	<p><i>Large in bulls and smaller but still evident in cows. Placed ahead of/or directly above shoulders. Upright and firm</i></p>

Dewlap	<i>Moderately developed with few folds.</i>
Tail	<i>Long and slender, without kinks, transitioning smoothly from the rump and extending to the hock or lower. Switch typically black.</i>
Skin	<i>Typically dark skinned. Dark points, i.e. muzzle and skin around eyes, are preferred.</i> <i><u>Specific fault:</u> Pink nose or skin around eyes.</i>
Colour	<i>Any colour or combination of colours, with or without white markings, most common - black, red, steel grey or white.</i>
Coat	<i>Short, dense and sleek. Moderately longer winter coat is acceptable.</i>
Sheath	<i>Tight and firmly attached.</i> <i><u>Specific fault:</u> Overly descended sheath.</i>
Testicles	<i>Two moderately descended, small testicles.</i> <i><u>Disqualification:</u> One or both undescended (exception for steers)</i>
Udder	<i>Compact, well attached, balanced with even quarters. Small to medium length teats with good capacity.</i> <i><u>Specific fault:</u> Pendulous or divided.</i>
Temperament	<i>Generally alert, docile and easy to handle.</i>
Gait and movement	<i>Straight and smooth, covering the ground well.</i>
Voice	<i>Bulls cough, grunt and roar. Cows to a lesser extent.</i>
Faults	<i><u>GENERAL FAULTS:</u> Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded in exact proportion to its degree.</i>

Guidelines for submission of Nadudana cattle grading applications to Nadudana Association Australia

Introduction

This form is for the submission of details of a Nadudana bull or cow to be graded registration by Nadudana Cattle Australia. Grading is used in the following circumstances:

- The voluntary grading of pure-bred animals already registered in the Full Registry (as Class A or Class B)
- The acceptance of animals with partial pedigree into the Full (Class A only) or Appendix Registry.
- The appearance registration of proposed Nadudana into the Appendix Registry

Only animals over 3 years of age will be considered fully grown and thus eligible for grading. Unless the animals is already registered in either the Main or Appendix Register based of the NAA, on the basis of its full breeding history (in which case grading is voluntary), grading is typically required before application for registration is made so that the appropriate registration categories can be determined.

Please note that where partial pedigree is known evidence of parentage must be provided based on DNA analysis, either at the time of application for grading or upon application for registration.

Name: *Please provide the registered name of the animal or the intended name to be used on a registration application*

DOB: *xx/xx/xxxx (the date of birth of the animal if known, the estimated age of the animal if not known)*

Breeder: *Please provide the name of the owner, breeder or stud of the animal being submitted for grading.*

Reason for grading:

- The voluntary grading of a registered pure-bred
- The acceptance of animals with partial pedigree into the Full or Appendix Registry.
- The appearance registration of proposed Nadudana into the Appendix Registry

Parentage where known:

Sire		Grand sire	
Dam		Grand dam	

Please provide accompanying evidence where available including registration certificates of parents/grandparents and DNA evidence. These will be required for any subsequent registrations.

Animal details:

Heifer Cow Bull Steer

Age (years):

De horned Horned

Height of animal (cm):

Photo of height measurement provided: Yes No

Note: The height of the animal should be measured using a commercially available measuring stick. The height should be measured in the animal in a crush. The animal should be standing on a solid surface. Measures should be taken at the shoulder (at the back of the hump) and the measurement should be taken three times with the average of the three readings being taken. Photo A provides an illustration of how the animal should be measured. If available, please provide photographic evidence to validate the height measurement.

Weight if known (kg):






Photos provided (checklist): *Please note that submission of an incomplete set of photos that do not permit adequate assessment of the features of your animal may result in a return of your application for provision of further pictures.*

- Left side – whole animal
- Right side – whole animal
- Rear view
- Front view
- Head shots (front and side views)
- Udders (heifers and cows)
- Sheath and testicles (bulls)

Please ensure that your photos clearly show (and thus allow assessment of) the following features of the animal (note please try to avoid including and identifiers of the animal or the owner in the photos):

Feature	Yes	Feature	Yes	Feature	Yes
Size	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legs & Feet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tail	<input type="checkbox"/>
General appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head, eyes & horns (front)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head, eyes & horns (side)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forequarters	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheath & testicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindquarters	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dewlap	<input type="checkbox"/>	Udders	<input type="checkbox"/>

Example Photos:

Right side ↓	Left side ↓
	
Front view ↓	Hind view ↓
	
Head (side on) ↓	Head (front on) ↓
	

Udder (Cows and heifers) ↓



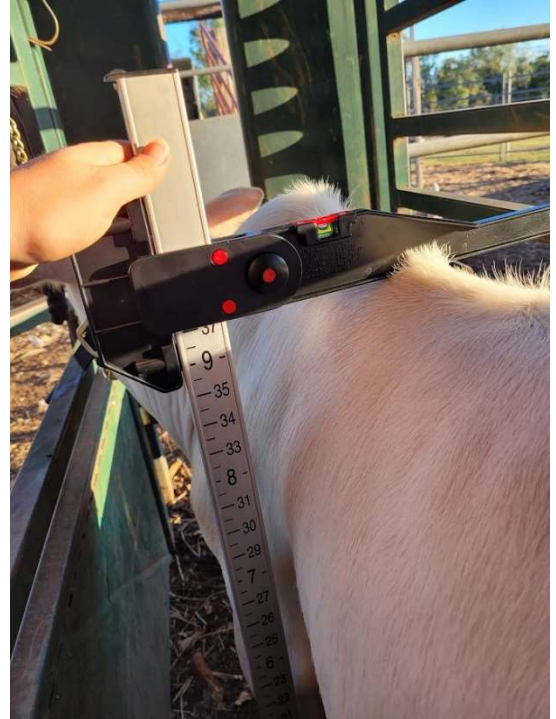
Sheath (bulls) ↓



Testicles (bulls) ↓



Photos of height measurements ↓



Annex 3 Proposed score allocation of traits based on their overall importance to the breed.

Importance rank	Trait	Points allocation Bulls	Points allocation Heifers and Cows
1	Size (SF)	15	15
3	Hump	10	3
4	Legs & Feet	8	8
5	Forequarters	6	6
6	General Appearance	8	8
7	Hindquarters	6	6
8	Udder (SF)		7
9	Coat	5	5
10	Head	5	5
11	Ears (SF)	4	4
12	Body	5	5
13	Testicles (DQ)	5	

15	Dewlap	6	6
16	Sheath (SF)	5	
17	Horns (SF)	5	5
19	Skin (SF)	5	5
20	Eyes	3	3
21	Neck	3	3
22	Colour	3	3
23	Tail	3	3
Total		110	100
Dehorned		105	95