

## Breed rules for the Kabulya Commercial Goat

This is a draft document, and subject to change. In particular, sections in orange are under review, and any comments on them would be welcome. (Send comments to [dave@joygoats.org.uk](mailto:dave@joygoats.org.uk))

### Introduction

The purpose of this system of goat certification is to establish breed registration in a way that is accessible to small-holder farmers as well as larger-scale breeders. It is also designed to make selective breeding a natural part of the registration process.

In order to encourage uptake, it will include the issuing of certificates such as this



*Certificate of Goat registration*

Certificate Number: G08b .....

This is to Certify that:

Herd book: .....

Tag: .....

Name: .....

Sire: .....

Dam: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Qualifies as **Kabulya Commercial Goat**  
Grade **Eight** by birth

Date: .....

Certifying officer: .....  
Name Signature

Verified by: .....  
Name Signature

Kabulya Goat Trading

With

JOY Goat Development Programme

This document focuses on dairy goats suitable for people who want to make a business from selling milk (Kabulya Commercial Goat). Separate documents exist for disease-resistant goats suitable for producing milk for home consumption (Kabulya Smallholders' Goat) and for meat goats (Kabulya Meat Goat).

It is assumed that the starting point for the breed registration is goats of between 62% and 88% dairy genetics, but that detailed breeding records for this initial stock may not be available. It is also assumed that because the milk will be sold, it will be feasible to keep the goats zero-grazed and to feed concentrate when necessary.

The emphasis of the selection needs to be on the length of lactation as well as the amount produced at the peak. However, the farmers will also want to maximise the number of kids, which are an important source of income when sold for breeding stock. As a result, the goats may be mated early, and the resulting pregnancy will limit the availability and usefulness of late-lactation data. As a compromise between these conflicting requirements, the period between 5 and 6 months from the start of lactation is the best for assessing useful milk production.

To make the breeding process available to the maximum number of people it is important that it is based on an "open herd book" – i.e. that it is possible to start from any goat and grade up.

### Overview of the system

The registration will be a series of grades that depend purely on performance, not on percentage of dairy or Kabulya genetics:-

Grade 3	750 ml per day 5 months into the lactation
Grade 4	1000 ml per day 5 months into the lactation (Observed in the very best 50% crosses and most 75% crosses)
Grade 5	1250 ml per day 5 months into the lactation
Grade 6	1500 ml per day 5 months into the lactation
Grade 7	1750 ml per day 5 months into the lactation
Grade 8	2000 ml per day 5 months into the lactation (Corresponds to the very best seen Uganda from pure-bred dairy goats ... and so on at 250ml intervals ...)
Grade 20	5000 ml per day 5 months into the lactation ... and so on at 250ml intervals ...

There is no upper limit. **Grades 1 and 2 are unused.**

Goats born to parents of graded goats will automatically receive a “birth grade” which is the lower of the grades of its parents. Subsequently, if the measured milk is high enough, it can be awarded a “performance grade” **1 or 2 grades higher** than the birth grade.

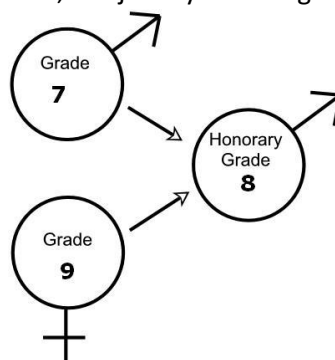
Awarding of grades **4 or 5** can be done by the local farmers’ group to which the goat’s owner belongs. But higher grades will require checking by officials from independent groups.

There is no mechanism for male goats to receive a performance grade, so there are special rules in place to ensure that if no male of a particular grade is available, then it is possible to assign an “honorary grade” as appropriate.

### Detailed rules

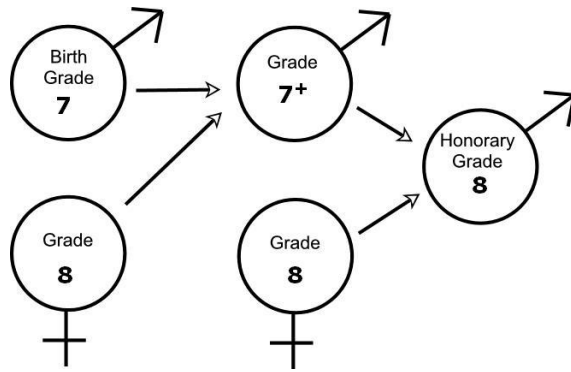
1. Genetic background
  - a. **Admission to the breed is only for goats with non-East African ancestry not exceeding 88%.**
  - b. There is no lower limit to exotic ancestry.
2. Certifying Officers for Performance Grades
  - a. For Grades **4 and 5**, the certifying officer can be any official of the local Kabulya Breeders Group who has been appointed by the group.
  - b. For Grades **6, 7 and 8**, the certification must also be verified by an officer from a different sub-county who is recognised at sub-county level within his own sub-county.
  - c. For Grades 9 and above, the certification must also be verified by an officer from a different district who is recognised at district level within his own district.
3. Status of Kabulya Smallholders’ goats
  - a. For the purposes of registering offspring as Kabulya Commercial Goats, either or both parents may be Kabulya Smallholder goats, and their grades will be accepted as if they were Kabulya Commercial Goats.
4. Milk Measurement and calculation of Performance Grades
  - a. The evening before the milk measurement day, the goat must be milked out in the presence of the certifying officer.

- b. The total milk produced in the following 24 hours will determine the Performance Grade
  - c. For grades 1 to 4, performance grades can be assigned whatever the birth grade.
  - d. For grades 5 and above, the assigned Performance Grade cannot exceed the Birth Grade by more than 2.
  - e. The assigned Performance Grade shall be calculated as the total milk divided by 250 and strictly rounded down, subject to the provision of 4.d.
  - f. The Performance Grade can be measured for any number of lactations, and new certificates may be issued if the performance improves, subject to the provision of 2.c.
5. Birth Grades
- a. The Birth Grade of a male or female goat shall be the lower of the grades of the sire and dam.
6. Honorary Grades for males (Qualification by special permission) – Honorary Grades 4 and 5
- a. If there is at least one female of the required grade but no males of that grade within a village, the committee of the village breeders' group may assign an Honorary Grade if:-
    - i. The male's sire is at least 88% dairy ancestry  
*and*
    - ii. The male's dam qualifies as the respective grade **by performance**.
  - b. Honorary Grade 4 or 5 may also be assigned using the formula of section 6.
7. Honorary Grades for males – Honorary Grades 6 and above
- a. The relevant level of authority for the various grades is:
    - i. Honorary Grades 5 to 7: Parish
    - ii. Honorary Grades 8 to 13: Sub-County
    - iii. Honorary Grade 13 and above: District
  - b. If there is at least one female in of the respective grade at the level specified in clause 7.a, but there is no male with that Birth Grade in the administrative unit, the committee of the respective breeders' group may assign an Honorary Grade N if:-
    - i. The male's sire is at least Grade N-1 and its dam is at least grade N+1 **by performance**, not just by birth. E.g.



*or*

- ii. The male's paternal grandsire is at least Birth Grade N-1 and its paternal granddam is at least grade N and its dam is at least grade N. E.g.



Both the dam and paternal granddam must be of the required grade N by performance, not just by birth.

8. Registration fees
  - a. Registration for grades 1 & 2 is free
  - b. Registration for grades 3 to 6 will be on a sliding scale, to be decided.
9. Certificates
  - a. Certificates for grades 1 & 2 will be simple photocopied black & white
  - b. Certificates for grades 3 to 6 will have distinct colours for each grade
  - c. Different certificates will be given for Birth Grade, Performance Grade and Honorary Grade but the colour will follow the assigned colour for the grade.