



Every time ownership of a Registered Jersey is changed, a transfer of ownership must be filed with the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA). Changes in ownership must be reported for all types of Registered Jersey genetics—live animals, embryos, pregnancies, flushes, and choices.

The process to transfer live animals is relatively straightforward, with the seller being responsible for submitting the transfer of ownership application to the AJCA. The process to transfer ownership of embryos is less intuitive and often prompts questions from Jersey breeders.

In this month's Jersey Jargon, we will explain how to report transfer ownership of an embryo to the AJCA and why this is important.

How to File

Confusion about ownership transfer of embryos arises primarily because the purchase of an embryo does not immediately result in a live animal that can be registered. It can take months or years for an embryo to be implanted in a donor dam, pregnancy confirmed, and calf born. As well, embryos are often sold as package deals, with multiple embryos that yield multiple calves. And sometimes, embryo implants are unsuccessful, yielding no live births.

So, how are ownership transfers for embryos handled and who is responsible for filing the application?

Transfer of Ownership Fees for REAP Herds

Embryo transfer fees filed within 60 days of sale, cumulative total within REAP enrollment year.

First 20 transfers	\$12
21-60 transfers	10
61-100 transfers	8
101-200 transfers	6
201-600 transfers	4
601-plus transfers	2
Intra-herd transfers	2

Intra-herd transfers not eligible for online processing discount until 600 transfers have been processed during REAP enrollment year.

Transfer of Ownership Fees for Non-REAP Herds

Filed within 60 days of sale	\$14
Filed after 60 days of sale	17
Transfers from Canadian herd book	14
Intra-farm transfers to AJCA junior member	7
Intra-herd transfers, all animals, single ownership	2

For sales of all Registered Jersey genetics, it is the seller's responsibility to file the application for transfer of ownership with the AJCA. Though a transfer application may be submitted online through infoJersey.com for live animals, one cannot be submitted for embryos. Sellers should contact Herd Services by phone at 614-861-3636 or email at herdservices@usjersey.com. A staff member will complete the transfer application for you.

Before you contact Herd Services, be sure to have readily available the buyer's name, address, phone, and account number, if known; date of sale; number of embryos sold; embryo type (frozen or fresh); registration name and number of donor dam; and registration name and number and NAAB stud code of service sire(s).

Please note that both the donor dam and service sire that are used to create embryos must be genotyped for parentage verification before the resulting embryo transfer calf can be registered. Most Jersey bulls in A.I. service have been genotyped. When you flush and in-vitro donor dams, be proactive and get testing done immediately if it has not already been accomplished. That way, you will be prepared to sell the resulting embryos. Genotyping can be ordered through infoJersey.com using your AJCA account. Find the Genomics Test Center under the "SERVICES" tab on your dashboard. From this dropdown, choose "GENOMICS," then "ORDER TEST KITS."

Of note as well, transfer of ownership fees for embryos are charged on a per-mating basis, rather than per-embryo. Therefore, the fee to transfer a package of 10 embryos is the same as transferring a single embryo.

If you have purchased an embryo or embryo package and do not know if the seller has filed the necessary paperwork, contact Herd Services. A member of the team will check status and get the process started if it has not been initiated.

Transfer fees are based on the performance program enrollment of the seller's herd and date they are filed, with the lowest fees for herds on REAP and submitted within 60 days of sale date. Fees for transfer of ownership of embryos and live animals

are the same and shown in the table below.

Why Transfer is Important?

The heart of the Registered Jersey business is data—information that is used to develop tools to better mate and manage Jersey cattle. Collected generation-after-generation, this data enables the dairy industry to reduce inbreeding of cattle, increase product yield and improve health and functional type traits. Genetic gain has been a major contributor in the smaller carbon footprint of the dairy industry over the past several decades.

Accurate animal ownership is a link to this information. Without it, opportunity is lost. Jersey breeders can register progeny only when they are the recorded owner of the dam at time of registration or if the recorded owner files the appropriate transfer application. With the extended time between purchase of an embryo and birth of a live calf, transfer of ownership may get overlooked.

The loss of just one animal registration is missed opportunity for the entire Jersey breed. Do your part. If you sell embryos, contact Herd Services to submit the transfer application and make sure all the ducks are in a row for your buyer.

Jersey Jargon

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