

France Génétique Elevage management quality system: an example of multi companies system, to serve a community of organizations, based on ISO 9001 standard

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France Génétique Elevage (FGE) is the French inter-branch organization in charge of coordinating the activity of firms and organizations involved in genetic improvement of ruminants. During the last 15 years it developed a management quality system compatible with ISO 9001 standard, in process mode, including more than 180 independent companies. This organization covers ruminant identification and production and publication of breeding values for bovines. The deployment required important efforts towards its organization. Each concerned company had to commit for a 5 years quality cycle with an initial commitment validated by FGE and monitoring audits. FGE developed a robust quality organization structured with: a quality manager employed by FGE; a pair of process managers (one from the national professional federation, one from technical institute); one quality focal point in each company. Each year, each activity's process is subject to an assessment. The conclusions of these assessments are compiled for evaluation by FGE management and the synthesis is then presented to FGE Board.

Despite a long lasting deployment phase with, finally, a scope of extension somehow smaller than expected, the resulting instrument allowed, with predictable and reasonable cost, for an appropriation of quality management processes by participating companies. FGE could secure the harmonization and the security of data processing methods of the process to produce reliable breeding values. This organization induced positive results in benchmarking, building confidence between actors, and a achieving a higher attractiveness for participating companies top management. Merging of companies and management of common subcontractors were therefore largely facilitated.

This quality management system has been officially recognized by the French Ministry in charge of agriculture and by ICAR (International Committee for Animal Recording) through its Quality Certificate.

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