

**Breed Association WG meeting notes
13th June 2017**

Present: Brian Wickham (ICAR), Josef Kucera (President of the World and European Simmentals), Steven Skinner (ABRI and Executive Officer for the Australian Beef Breed Associations), Charl Hunlun (ICAR Membership Executive), Darren Todd (Holstein UK / NBDC) and Suzanne Harding (Chair)

1. Apologies

Egbert Feddersen (WHFF), Derrick Friggot (World Jersey), Courtney Walker (World Guernsey), Felipe Ruiz (WHFF), David Hambrook (RJAHS), Zoltan Haller (Romanian Simmental)

2. Introductions

After all present had introduced themselves, Brian Wickham gave a short talk regarding the objectives of the group.

- a. The Terms of reference are on the ICAR web site. **Action: Suzanne to check the TOR and see if need to change**
- b. Scope – to review common breed association activity
- c. Why – each breed has world body / annual conference but there isn't a structure bringing them all together

3. Membership for 2017

The membership of this group is under review. Suzanne will consult with Brian and decide upon the people needed. All present were asked to send details of any interested parties to Suzanne so that a database can be formed.

The current proposal is to have three categories of interested parties.

- a. Working group members
The make up of the working group needs ideally to be across breed associations and species.
In particular currently there are two members from the Jersey Breed, this should be the contact from the World Jersey Association.
It was proposed that working group members should be nominated by the World Breed Federations. Members of the working group need to be members of ICAR. In addition there are organisations like ABRI and NBDC who are umbrella organisations for Breed Associations and provide services and advice to them. The experience of these organisations would be invaluable.
- b. World Body co-ordinators / Presidents
Action; Charl and Steven to send contacts for World Associations and perhaps contact in the first place.
- c. National Breed Associations and other interested parties
Groups (a) and (b) would receive minutes and be kept informed about open meetings. It is hoped they would be active in suggesting and questioning the work of the group.

Potential members need to know why it is a good idea to join and contribute to the working group.

Areas such as Genomics - SNP parentage and discovery, animal identification, networking and outreach, ICAR guidelines, traceability, legal responsibility's, etc are

all areas covered by the group. It is very important that we do not overlay with other ICAR or industry groups, and so avoid duplication of effort.

Action: Ask ICAR Secretariat to give us a communication to explain what is relevant for breed assoc.

4. GENOEX PSE Update

GenoEX PSE has run into some technical difficulties at INTERBULL. It is hoped that these will be resolved in time for launch in the autumn.

5. Genetic traits data exchange proposal

An initiative suggested by the WHFF President Jos Buiting, and sent to ICAR CEO Martin Burke was discussed at the Interbull Business Meeting in Chile 2016. This proposal was to exchange Holstein Bull Genetic Trait data through the Interbull Centre Evaluation runs. A trial by the Netherlands, Germany and the UK has been completed, with all three countries increasing the numbers of genetic traits in their databases. Each Herd book will be responsible for updating their databases with any new data. It is hoped to launch this service later this year.

Steven explained that ABRI facilitate a data exchange - sharing Angus genetic recessives. Charl mentioned the program 'Geneprob' which calculates the probability of carriers so that you can suggest which animals should be tested. Geneprob also shows the current probability of being a carrier as well.

6. Possible priorities for 2017

- a. Conformation – get an overview of traits common for all **Action: Josef to source from the ICAR Conformation WG**
- b. Animal data exchange – between National Breed Associations. We need a recommendation of how to exchange data more effectively – for pedigree and associated data.
- c. Percentage of populations that should be randomly parentage tested? Genomics also comes into this.
- d. Guidelines for keeping of herd books

7. Any other business

None

8. Date of next meeting by Skype

Action: A doodle calendar request will be sent around the people present today as well as any other interested parties.