

ICAR and sensor devices – a progress report on the development of ICAR guidelines for certification, routine maintenance/calibration and data usability standards for sensor devices for livestock.

Steven Sievert, Chair, ICAR Subcommittee for Recording and Sampling Devices; Chair, ICAR Sensor Devices Task Force

National DHIA/Quality Certification Services, P.O. Box 930399, 53593, Verona, WI, USA
sjsievert@dhia.org

Summary

After the theoretical work of the Accuracy Task Force was completed in 2016, ICAR established a Sensor Devices Task Force (SD-TF). This task force is charged with development of methodology to classify or quality sensor devices; determine certification and routine maintenance or calibration procedures for these devices; and finally disseminate new ICAR guidelines for the suitability or usability of data collected by these devices. The initial work of the SD-TF is focused on measures of milk volume and quality but the scope of the SD-TF is not limited to either measure on milk nor is it limited to dairy cattle. To understand the needs of both ICAR members and device manufacturers, the SD-TF conducted a survey of both industry groups to identify challenges and develop specific plans of action moving forward.

The SD-TF will present a summary of work completed, the proposed timeline moving forward and the limitations as perceived at the present time. Working with five key groups of measurements as identified by the industry surveys, development of new ICAR guidelines and supporting best practices for data collection continue with the goal of addressing the challenges and opportunities associate with sensor devices that face member organizations. These key groups of sensor measurements include: a) milk yield and composition; b) milk flow rate and duration; c) live body measurements; d) live activity measurements; and e) feed efficiency measurements. Contributions from other ICAR subcommittees and working groups will be important to completing this work in a cooperative and timely fashion.