



THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

MINUTES of the Board of: International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), 26th and 27th October 2023 Held in person in Utrecht, The Netherlands

The meeting is chaired by Daniel LEFEBVRE (President)

The chairman opens the meeting. A quorum has been reached.

In attendance: Daniel Lefebvre (President), João Dürr, Niels Henning Nielsen, Laurent Griffon, Nora Hammer, António Martins, Tone Roalkvam and Enrico Santus.
Jason Archer joined online.

Finance Inspectors: Cyril Cabrol.

Staff: Marie Mourot (Chief Executive, CE), Elena Couto, Andie Dimitriadou, Cesare Mosconi, René van der Linde, Silvia Orlandini, and Yvonne de Gier.

Apologies: Josef Kučera and Hans Janssen.

Agenda

Day 01 | Thursday 26th October 2023

- A. Call to Order & Approval of this Agenda
 - 1. Approval of the following minutes and agenda:
 - ICAR Board 26th September 2023
 - ICAR Board points on agenda open for approval
- Chief Executive Report
- B. Sub Committee | Working Groups
 - 1. Interbeef Chair and Working Group
 - 2. ToR and policy: SC and WG
 - 3. Interbull agreement
 - 4. Global Methane Hub

Break

- C. Projects and Services update – part 01
 - 1. Guidelines – Wiki expansion
 - Endorsement of Guidelines (Section 2)
 - Overview
 - Procedure 1: Computing 24 Hour Yield
 - Procedure 2: Computing Lactation Yield.
 - Appendix 1: Adjustment factors to calculate 24-hour yields using Liu method
 - Appendix 2: Renewed estimation method for 24-hour fat percentage
 - 2. AMS Summit
 - 3. Accreditation
 - 4. CoQ
 - 5. Update on Patent
 - 6. Update on ISO



Lunch

- D. Projects and Services update – part 02
 - 1. Trademark
 - 2. Breakdown services
 - 3. Membership new category and dynamic
 - 4. Website
 - 5. Exact Online

Break

- E. Business plan 2024 and Finance update
 - 1. Business plan 2024
 - 2. Q3 FY2023 results and Year End Projection 2023
 - 3. Revised budget 2024
- F. Review ICAR Board meeting calendar 2023 | 2024
- End of the session and Day 01

Day 02 | Friday 27th October 2023

- A. ICAR Branding and conferences
 - 1. ICAR 2024 Bled – Interbull/ICAR
 - 2. ICAR 2025
 - 3. ICAR to be re-connected with other international organizations.
 - IFAD
 - FAO
 - IDF
 - EU
 - Others (ATF, EFFAB, WAAP, EAAP, more)
- B. ICAR Board Members | In camera session

Break

- ICAR Board Members | In camera session

End of the session and Day 02

Action points recap:

Agenda item	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
Interbeef Chair and Working Group	Plan/execute a strategic planning process of ICAR to focus on beef	Board	
Interbeef Chair and Working Group	Revised Terms of Reference for Interbeef	Group of Convenors	
Interbeef Chair and Working Group	Revision of a maximum term to serve in a working group. The proposal applies for a maximum of 2 terms of 4 years. This will be discussed during the Board & Chairmanship on November 7.	Board & Chairs	07-11-2023



Interbull agreement	Send the letter	CE	
Interbull agreement	Form a group of Board members	Daniel, Laurent & Jason	
Interbull agreement	Discussion ICAR and Interbull future of Interbull	Board, CE & Interbull	
Interbull agreement	Draft new agreement	CE	

Day 01 | Thursday 26th October 2023

The meeting started with an expression of gratitude for everyone's participation and the importance of the meeting. Daniel said this meeting provides an opportunity for more in-depth discussions than regular meetings. He thanked Marie and her staff for their preparatory work. Jason joined the meeting online. Enrico asked a question about the ICAR guideline, which he received from the Ministry of Agriculture, which will be discussed during the break or under 'other matters'.

A. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda

Moved by: João Dürr
 Secunder: Enrico Santus

Motion: It was duly moved, seconded, and carried that the agenda is approved as proposed.

- Approval of the following minutes: ICAR Board 26th & 27th September 2023

Moved by: João Dürr
 Secunder: Enrico Santus

Motion: It was duly moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes of the Board from 26th September 2023 are approved.

Chief Executive Report

B. Sub Committee | Working Groups

o 1. Interbeef Chair and Working Group

It has been expressed the need for a clear Working group as well as the need to discuss beef on dairy.

It was agreed to first decide what ICAR's plans for Interbeef are (a clear strategy) before a new chairman is appointed. Cassandro Martino will be informed of this decision.

The Board appointed 3 of its members (Joao Dürr, Laurent Griffon and Nora Hammer) as Convenors to prepare the ToR and plan.

João noted that Interbull is merging several departments.

Actions		Timeline
Plan/execute a strategic planning process of ICAR to focus on beef	Board	
Revised Terms of Reference for Interbeef	Group of Convenors	



Revision of a maximum term to serve in a working group. The proposal applies for a maximum of 2 terms of 4 years. This will be discussed during the Board & Chairmanship on November 7.	Board & Chairs	07-11-2023
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○ 2. ToR and policy: SC and WG

Marie highlighted the importance of reviewing the Terms of Reference, addressing upcoming projects, and determining the future direction of the Interbeef working group.

She stressed the need to involve a board member in these discussions and to establish a clear plan before selecting new leadership for the group.

○ 3. Interbull agreement

Regarding the Interbull agreement, it was decided to send a letter indicating the intention to renegotiate it. A group of Board Members will meet with the Interbull Steering Committee to discuss the future and the agreement.

The need for clarity in SLU's services to ICAR members and the role of internal subcommittees within the ICAR community was emphasized. João disagreed with the idea that the Interbull community lacks clarity about its purpose, highlighting its success and the need to assess its continued relevance.

The discussion mainly centered on the Interbull Steering Committee, addressing challenges related to financial processes and managing various genetic evaluation units. Maintaining the brand and defining Interbull's role in the context of new technology and genomics were key points.

Nora acknowledged the initial lack of clarity about Interbull's role within ICAR and emphasized the need for greater clarity, especially in branding and agreements.

The following action points emerged from the discussion.

Actions		Timeline ?
Send the letter	CE	
Form a group of Board members	Daniel, Laurent & Jason	
Discussion ICAR and Interbull future of Interbull	Board, CE & Interbull	
Draft new agreement	CE	

○ 4. Global Methane Hub

The collaboration between the Global Methane Hub (GMH) and ICAR was discussed ICAR board members were recommended to read a specific article about GMH's ICAR Accelerator Program and an upcoming on-site meeting. The purpose of the document is to inform board members about the financing options within this program and to request approval for ICAR's involvement through the Feed & Gas Working Group and ICAR staff. The primary goal is to accelerate genetic improvements in addressing methane emissions in ruminants.



The document also notes ongoing discussions with INTERBULL and possible future discussions with INTERBEEF regarding their involvement in program development and implementation. However, specific details about ICAR's participation in these discussions are not provided at this time. ICAR is waiting for GMH's feedback that will be circulated after the outcome from the Bezos Board mid of November 2023.

C. Projects and Services update – part 01

○ 1. Guidelines – Wiki expansion

The ICAR Wiki project was discussed, its progress and possible improvements. The project aims to convert the ICAR guidelines into a digital Wiki format. Key points discussed include configuring the Wiki, moving specific group guidelines to the new format, training authors and staff, and presenting the results. There is also a proposal to maintain the current system of sending documents to members for approval, while marking Wiki changes as "approved" once approved by the board. There is also a discussion about involving experts in reviewing and approving changes and dealing effectively with member comments. The overall goal is to make the guidelines more dynamic and responsive to member feedback.

- Changes agreed by WG/SC will be marked unapproved by ICAR staff.
 - ICAR staff and CEO will put change on agenda of board meeting.
 - Board approves (or not, then back to 1).
 - Wiki page will be marked approved by ICAR staff and launched.
 - Members will be informed about change and have opportunity to respond.
 - Change to current way, will make approval process more efficient.
- Endorsement of Guidelines (Section 2)
 - Overview
 - Procedure 1: Computing 24 Hour Yield
 - Procedure 2: Computing Lactation Yield.
 - Appendix 1: Adjustment factors to calculate 24-hour yields using Liu method
 - Appendix 2: Renewed estimation method for 24-hour fat percentage

○ 2. AMS Summit

The discussion revolved around the challenges of developing a certification process for data collected from various devices, especially automatic milking systems (AMS), and the need for data validation. These are the main points discussed:

Participants recognized that developing a dairy data certification process is challenging due to a lack of market demand. Farmers using AMS systems are more focused on labor saving aspects than data validation.

The need for a data validation process was agreed upon, with consideration for potential exclusions, especially for AMS systems not meeting certification criteria.

There was a suggestion to validate select technologies as reliable and establish a reference point, avoiding legal complications.

To address future data challenges, collaboration with AMS manufacturers to establish guidelines and standards was proposed. The dairy industry's changing landscape, with AMS used for labor-saving purposes, requires ICAR's adaptability.



Responsibilities for data validation and certification remain undefined but may involve ICAR staff, subcommittees, and the board as needed.

In summary, participants discussed challenges in dairy data certification, proposed validation processes, and stressed the need to adapt to evolving dairy industry trends, with role divisions yet to be determined.

○ 3. Accreditation

Silvia shared the presentation regarding the Accreditation.

ICAR is pursuing accreditation for the following reasons:

- Establishing and demonstrating credibility as a certification body, ensuring customer and stakeholder trust.
- Improving efficiency, effectiveness, and quality awareness in ICAR operations, with an emphasis on integrity, reliability, and technical competence.

The accreditation project plan contains background information and detailed project phases. Actions required to bring ICAR into compliance with ISO 17065 and related standards. A timeline for carrying out these actions and achieving accreditation. Reporting and progress communication. Estimates of time, capacity, and costs.

The proposed timeline includes:

(the initiative will be presented to the board in the coming weeks)

- Developing the project plan in the autumn of 2023.
- We request approval from the Board for the implementation of the plan in the winter of 2024.
- Implementation of the project plan in 2024.
- Carrying out a preliminary investigation by the RvA in the spring of 2025.
- Completion of a formal initial assessment by the RvA in the autumn of 2025.

The success of this initiative depends on the efforts of the ICAR board, the ICAR staff and ICAR experts.

○ 4. CoQ

During our review of team roles and responsibilities and the implementation of a cross-checking concept within the team, it was decided that Silvia will assume the responsibilities previously held by Andie for the CoQ. Andie will continue to provide support to Silvia in this capacity.

○ 5. Update on Patent

ICAR is in contact with EFFAB; further information will be shared about this case prior end of November 2023.

○ 6. Update on ISO

A short explanation was given about the process to finalize the renewal of the contract.



D. Projects and Services update – part 02

○ 1. Trademark

The email from MIIP (in French) discussed recommendations concerning the use of the term "INTERBULL CENTER." It noted confusion due to two entities sharing this name, one within SLU responsible for genetic evaluations and another as part of ICAR.

The email suggested two corrective options:

1. Grant a broader brand license to cover both INTERBULL brands and the use of "INTERBULL" for the SLU unit, with the services contract addressing technical and financial aspects separately.
2. Define "INTERBULL CENTER" to exclusively refer to the SLU unit serving ICAR and its members.

The email emphasized the need to address the legal status of the SLU unit and recommended clarifying SLU's responsibilities in Article 10.

Furthermore, it proposed provisions in the license contract requiring ICAR's authorization for any external use of INTERBULL by SLU, excluding such provisions from the service contract to reduce confusion. Specific know-how could be included in the license contract for SLU's use within ICAR and its members.

○ 2. Breakdown services

This report aims to focus on analyzing ICAR's membership growth and engagement, with a special emphasis on the distribution of services.

The goal is to strategically maximize these benefits for the community, enhancing membership value while minimizing potential risks.

○ 3. Membership new category and dynamic

The discussion focused on the need for ICAR to expand and harmonize its membership base.

Historically, ICAR had full members with voting rights and one member per country. In 1999, this expanded to include multiple members per country and the introduction of associate members without voting rights.

The document identified issues with fee structures, discrepancies between full and associate member fees, and inconsistencies in categorizing members based on their activities.

Proposed actions include harmonizing membership, encouraging new applications for associate members, such as laboratories, universities, and start-ups, with a new compensation and benefits framework.

In summary, the document highlights the necessity of adapting ICAR's membership structure and benefits to ensure financial sustainability and align with evolving dimensions.

○ 4. Website

The redesigning of the website is in progress to make it more professional, organized, and user-friendly.



- 5. Exact Online

The importance of the transitioning from Visma to Exact Online is emphasized for the accounting and CRM needs within ICAR. This upgrade is seen as a fundamental step in improving transaction organization and analysis while reducing the risk of misinterpretation.

The automation of transactions is expected to improve the accuracy of results, performance, and achievement of targets for ICAR's services and members.

This shift is also aimed at promoting collaboration and breaking down isolation within the organization. The team is actively working on mapping and migrating data, training with the new tool, and ensuring consistency and accuracy between the old and new systems. They are also implementing a new approach that focuses on the 'why, what, who and how' of different activities.

E. Business plan 2024 and Finance update

- 1. Business plan 2024

Marie invited the ICAR Board Members to read the first draft of the business plan 2024 that will be slightly amended based on the conclusion of the Board meeting held in Utrecht.

- 2. Q3 FY2023 results and Year End Projection 2023

The third quarter 2023 financial report covers revenues and expenses related to membership and services, in comparison with the third quarter of 2022 and projection year end 2023.

The disappointing third quarter results are attributed to delayed payments and slow membership and membership results, delivery of services, stock. The year 2023 is seen as a transition year, giving rise to strategic projects to enhance ICAR services in preparation for the challenges and opportunities of 2024. Experts have been engaged to oversee critical projects, ensuring smooth implementation and minimal disruptions are guaranteed.

The expected cost recovery and the SMARTER EU project are expected to have a positive impact on the financial position. These are only booked in the period 13-2023 for a clear representation of the figures. Most of these projects will go live in 2024, in line with the objectives defined end of 2022.

- 3. Revised budget 2024

It has been identified about the necessity to put in place a better infrastructure, including accounting systems, CRM systems and website improvements. These changes will help streamline operations and enable more efficient growth.



F. Review ICAR Board meeting calendar 2023 | 2024
The schedule below has been agreed.

ICAR Chairs	Board & Chairs	Tue 07/11/2023	20:00 - 22:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 28/11/2023	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 19/12/2023*	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call

(*) new date if needed

Future ICAR Board Meeting Schedule from **January 2024 to December 2024**

ICAR	Board	Tue 30 th Jan	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 20 th Feb	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR Chairs	Board & Chairs	Tue 26 th Mar	20:00 - 22:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 23 rd Apr	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Sat 18 th May	09:00 - 17:00	Bled	Face to Face
ICAR	Board & Chairs Workshops	Sun 19 th May	13:30 - 17:00	Bled	Face to Face
ICAR Chairs	Board annual election	Wed 22 nd May	13:00 - 14:00	Bled	Face to Face
ICAR	Board	Tue 30 th Jul	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 23 rd Sep	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Mon 21 st Oct & Tue 22 nd Oct	2 days	Utrecht	Face to Face
ICAR	Board	Tue 26 rd Nov	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom call
ICAR	Board	Tue 17 th Dec	20:00 - 21:00	Utrecht	Zoom Call



Day 02 | Friday 27th October 2023

A. ICAR Branding and conferences

○ 1. ICAR 2024 Bled – Interbull/ICAR

It has been discussed about the potential speakers for ICAR Slovenia 2024 and the need to reach participants from specific regions.

Personalizing invitations to welcoming participants and to ensure a personal approach will take place. The program for the event and the decision to stay in the same hotel for convenience were discussed.

Potential speakers/topics:

- Dr. Jože Verbič, Slovenia
- Dr. Frank Mitloehner, USA
- Miel Hostens (data)
- Elsa Vasseur
- Sanne Griffioen
- Rachel Campbell (Arla)
- Jean-Louis Peyraud, France
- Renzo Bonifaci, InterBeef
- Traceability
- GHG
- Ecosystems close to farmers
- Young professional (Brian Wickham)
- Animal Welfare
- Sensors, robots,
- Data transfer – Digi4Life

Topic for ICAR2024 will be:

- Precision livestock farming for sustainable intensification of livestock production
- Digitalization and automatization are key to sustainability and resource efficiency
- Can technology help achieve sustainable intensification in livestock breeding?
- Sensors, automatization, digitalization, use of big data on farm – challenges and opportunities for farmers and breeding industrySmall production system in new era

All under the common slogan:

Sustainable livestock production systems in a new era.

○ 2. ICAR 2025

Partnering with other organizations and combining ICAR's annual conference with the IDF Analytical Week for the 2025 conference has been presented to the ICAR Board Members.

The positive and successful experience of event organized in the past in collaboration with IDF motivated the Board to agree upon India (Delhi) to host the annual ICAR conference 2025.

The intention is to work together and involve them ICAR local representatives as always.

It has been agreed that the 75th anniversary of ICAR in 2026 will be organized in France (location still to be defined).



- 3. ICAR to be re-connected with other international organizations.
 - IFAD
 - FAO
 - IDF
 - EU
 - Others (ATF, EFFAB, WAAP, EAAP, more)

The discussion focused on the planning of future ICAR events and workshops, especially in India and APAC in general. The need to organize the workshops and regional events in collaboration with international organization and partners has been discussed.

It was proposed to explore a new association called "Selma" (Sustainable European Livestock and Meat Association) and establish contacts for future cooperation. The focus is on the meat sector and topics such as sustainability and animal welfare. The idea is to position ICAR as a partner for possible collaboration, even if not for sponsorship.

B. ICAR Board Members | In camera session

- ICAR Board Members | In camera session
- End of the session and Day 02

- The meeting adjourned at 12h00.

Chairman

Secretary

Name

Name