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Identification and registration of cattle in the Czech Republic

Pavel Bucek, Libor Nozina

Animal Breeding Department, Czech Moravian Breeders' Corporation, Inc., Hradistko, Czech Republic

Identification and registration are prerequisites for milk recording, genetic evaluation, veterinary aspects of cattle breeding, agriculture policy and cattle breeding management on farms. This paper provides updates on this area in the Czech Republic as well as information on the role of the Czech-Moravian Breeders' Corporation within the system. The comprehensive and unique identification and registration system used in the Czech Republic employs modern IT technologies, data processing and data flow tools. The identification and registration database is interconnected with milk recording and genetic evaluation databases, and incorporates a sophisticated system of plausibility checks and on-farm inspections. As part of this system, cattle breeders have access to the Integrated Agricultural Register (IZR), an administration server for identification and registration. All identification criteria respect EU and national legislations as well as the ICAR Guidelines. The uniform cattle identification eartag system was established in the Czech Republic in the early 1960s, building on a long tradition dating to the establishment of the milk recording industry in 1905. The identification system incorporates eartag distribution and logistics, select control mechanisms, plausibility checks, a supervisory programme and parentage verification.