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**Global 24-hour calculation trends in classical milk recording systems**

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The ICAR Dairy Cattle Milk Recording WG (DCMRWG) is currently rolling out changes to the dairy cattle milk recording section of the ICAR Guidelines, which were approved in Auckland at the beginning of 2018. The core activities of the group are to improve 24-hour calculations used in classical milk recording and automatic milking systems. It was decided that preparations would be given over in the short term to improving the 24-hour calculations section of the Guidelines: Procedure

1, Section 2 – Computing 24-Hour Yields. Before any changes in the Guidelines, is necessary to monitor and analyse current situation in milk recording organisation, their needs and problems. The DCMRWG invited various organisations from around the world to take part in a survey. Data was obtained from 52 organisations in total. The survey consisted of 90 questions. The survey presents an overview of the current situation and is the basis for all planned changes. As well as monitoring the current situation, the survey aims to establish a future policy and set out recommendations as a way of harmonising practice worldwide. It is also hoped that the survey will serve as a springboard for instigating discussion among milk recording organisations and assessing needs. This was one of the main goals of the project is to strengthen communication and encourage the exchange of information between working groups and MROs alike. As the survey will deliver aggregated data, practice will be benchmarked for respective organisations to reflect common practice in this field worldwide.

The first part of the study consists of several sections: a general overview, practical experiences with methods recommended in the ICAR Guidelines, problem areas MROs wish to address, priorities and needs, and processes used to estimate coefficients and factors. Some organisations estimate their own factors and coefficients and survey gave an overview on the following areas: number of

organisations which estimate own factors and coefficients, problems with estimations, number of animals and herds used for estimations (different indicators used), time period between estimations or recalculations, how cows and herds are chosen, criteria used for selecting herds and cows, data editing and criteria for data exclusion, factors and coefficients used nationally or differences between breeds and regions, estimations and recalculations of conventional methods (not from AMS), what comparisons are used, results from estimations or recalculations (am/pm, method Z, etc.) and the types of statistical indicators used.

The results of the survey should prove invaluable when making changes to the ICAR Guidelines and for benchmarking MROs in a global context, adapting methodologies among organisations where relevant.

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