REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON MILK RECORDING OF SHEEP

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37th ICAR Session, Riga, Latvia, 2010

Working Group Members

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Meetings of the WG
1st June 2010
17 June 2008

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## Terms of reference: main items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare updates for relevant appendices of the International Agreement of Recording Practices</td>
<td><strong>Guidelines</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advise Board and Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare &amp; analyze survey</td>
<td><strong>Yearly enquiry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stimulate new developments and report on new equipment, procedures and methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-operation with relevant WG, SC and TF of ICAR</td>
<td><strong>Cooperation within ICAR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep contact with non ICAR organizations or persons in the field of competence</td>
<td><strong>Contact with non-ICAR organization in the dairy sheep field</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on the activities ... Communication</td>
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### Yearly enquiry on-line

- Follow and stimulate ICAR recommendations
- Provide official figures to ICAR
- Biennial report (report from 2010 data available on the ICAR site)
- Raw data available on the ICAR site
Yearly enquiry on-line

Green: ICAR countries having submitted data to the database since 2008

Yellow: ICAR countries having answering the survey at least once between 1988 and 2008

ONLY 10 submissions in 2008-2010
Remind regularly the countries

Main features of milk recording in sheep

- 1,209,000 ewes submitted to official milk recording on the whole
- Italy, France, Spain represent 89%
- Milk yield: increasing use of simplified (AT or AC) methods
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AC</th>
<th>AT/ET</th>
<th>A4/B4/E4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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- Qualitative recording: concerns 21% of all recorded ewes. Relevant for genetic purpose. Not compatible with too low accuracy of measure.
Co-operation within ICAR

SC on Recording Devices

- Recurrent question: are the guidelines relevant for sheep?

2 (on-farm) meters have passed ICAR tests in the last 3 years.
It is possible!!
Considering (very) simplified methods in sheep: low number of measures per animal. Each measure must be accurate.

The working group considers the requirements are relevant and must not be relaxed.

Guidelines

- Include udder morphology
  
  Change the name of the section 2.2 (milk recording in sheep → recording in dairy sheep)

  Purpose: to be informative (and not normative) = general principle, different traits that could be scored, existing tables

- Cope with some situations where the guidelines cannot be met
  
  Large size flocks having a part of the ewes registered (and recorded) and another part non-registered
  
  Part of the flock milked twice a day, other part milked once a day

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Conclusion

- **Guidelines**: udder traits, adaptation, glossary
- **Dairy sheep on-line enquiry**: raw data + synthetic report from 2010 available on the ICAR site
- **Co-operation within ICAR**: Recording and analysis devices: keep enough accuracy to be relevant with simplification of the recording designs

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