Valuing the Certificate of Quality at Holstein UK
Darren Todd
24/05/2023
Overview of talk

- Introduction to Holstein UK
- Herdbook key activity – data
- Value of Certificate of Quality (CoQ)
- Example of a challenge facing Herdbook re data
Introduction Holstein UK

- Herdbook since 1909
- Holstein UK
  - Holstein and British Friesians
- CIS milk recording
- NBDC services to other breeds
  - Herdbook database
  - Registrations services
  - Classification/Conformation
  - 20 breeds dairy and beef breeds

www.ukcows.com
How ‘healthy’ is the Herdbook?

Herdbook registrations of Holstein and Friesian females by year of birth

Year of birth

Total Holstein and Friesian females registered


170000 175000 180000 185000 190000 195000 200000 205000 210000 215000

www.ukcows.com
Friesian females increasing but Holstein and Friesian males are disappearing!
What does a Herdbook do?

- Record births, names and animal ancestry
- Provides animal Herdbook Certificates (Zootech cert)
- Classification/Conformation recording
- Promotion of breed and member activities (journal/shows)
- Social function

- **Data collection key activity**
- A lot of that data is published mainly for breeders to refer to
- also provided to other companies in the dairy industry (sometimes £)
- **Accuracy of the data is important!**
### Publishing data – ancestry

**Registration Certificate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BOGHILL GLAMOUR CAPTAIN CR CARLIN C ET</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner and Breeder</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Mccollum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 BOGHILL WARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLERAINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY LONDONDERRY, BT62 3NT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Glentaneby**

- **Breeders**
  - **HURSTHURST RICHARD CAPRI ET**
    - Service Date: 08/04/2009
    - **HURSTHURST YODER MODESTO ET**
    - **Source**
    - **PRA**
    - **PQ6**
  - **PRA**
  - **PQ6**
  - **ICAR**

**Breeder**

- **BOGHILL GLAMOUR CAPTAIN CR CARLIN C ET**
  - **Origin**
  - **ICAR**

**Genealogy**

- **BOGHILL GLAMOUR V CARLIN C ET**
  - **Crew**
  - **ICAR**

**Enoby Transfer**

- **Identification**
  - Ear Tag no.: **UK915057836535**
  - Born: 2 Aug 2021

**Additional Information**

- **Holstein UK**
  - [www.ukcows.com](http://www.ukcows.com)
- **ICAR**

---

[Image of the registration certificate and genealogy chart]

---

**Holstein UK**

[Logo]

---

**www.ukcows.com**
CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

Holstein UK Group

- Animal identification in cattle
- Milk recording in cattle
- Herdbook recording
- Conformation recording
- Data processing
- Laboratory milk analysis

Utrecht, 20 September, 2022
Certificate number: 2022/06
Valid up-to: September 2027

Martin Burke
ICAR CE
Value of CoQ to Herdbook

- Certification – should be about trusting our data is accurate
- Probably - CoQ more important for companies seeking Herdbook data
- Because - certification of other companies gives us more assurance about the quality of their data
- Anecdotally - Herdbook member farmers less aware of ICAR (problem?)
- Conclusion, one value of certification comes from selling data
Example of a challenge to data accuracy

- Parentage conflicts from genomic testing
- After animal has been registered in Herdbook
- Problem especially with animals which did not require parentage check due to Herdbook rules
- 20% of Herdbook females born in 2022 were G tested (only 5% by the Herdbook)
- About 5% parent conflicts (lot of herd variation)
- Problem if ancestry published online
- A lot of UK females are G tested in North American
- Current policy is to investigate the conflict
Genomic pedigree

- Potentially more accurate source of pedigree if there has been no Id/sample mix up
- Level of checking not faced by other ‘animal recording methods’
- Can identify problems all up the chain of data
- Challenge for Herdbook and ICAR CoQ
- Risk for Herdbook to remain best (quickest) source of pedigree
- Open to suggestions on how to deal with this!
Summary

- Holstein UK Herdbook collects and disseminates a lot of data
- One example of CoQ value is in data exchange
- Genomics challenge to Herdbook data
- Next page