The usefulness of the CoQ for a local beef cattle breed: the case of Avileña-Negra Ibérica

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How is our breed?

- Beef cattle
- Extensive production (highland + grassland)
- 47,453 dams alive in the herdbook
How is our production system?  
- From farm to fork
**How is our breeding program?**

- **1992**
  - **Weaning**
    - Weaning weight
  - **Post-weaning**
    - Weight at 365 days
    - Growth at 365 days

- **2000**
  - **Carcass quality**
    - Carcass weight
    - Carcass yield
    - Carcass fattening
    - Carcass conformation

- **2008**
  - **Fertility**
    - Age at first calving
    - Calving Interval (1_to 2)

- **2020**
  - **Selection indexes**
    - Meat production
    - Fertility
    - Mixed

- **2022**
  - Genomic Info was incorporated to genetic evaluation
  - Method: ssBLUP

*Data recording! (herdbook in 1971)*
How do we start the process to get the CoQ?

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- Evaluate status quo of breeding programs
- Impact of incorporation genomic info.
- Incorporate new pheno to max the invest. in genomic

To evaluate our working procedures in relation to an international standard ICAR certification
The process

1. Survey
2. Virtual meeting with the auditor
3. On site visit with the auditor

- Animal identification
- Performance recording
- Data management
- Herdbook recording
- Genetic evaluation
- Lineal conformation

How was the process?
1. Survey: reflexion
   - Analyzed our system
   - Evaluation of our weakness & strengths

2. Virtual meeting with the auditor: for the auditor to understand

3. On site visit with the auditor: Learning experience
   - Exchange ideas
   - Knowledge contribution
   - Identify aspects to be improved & new ideas to continue our improvement

Dr. Japie van der Westhuizen
➢ CoQ ICAR to January 2027

➢ POSITIVE
➢ ENRICHING
➢ SATISFACTION of being in the correct way of improve our LOCAL breed
➢ We realized the work in group is the best way to maximize the benefic (as a local breed, as breeder)

➢ Identify aspects to be improved & new ideas to continue our improvement

.......... and we really hope to renew in 2027
Thank you for your attention

Our breed, our culture