ICAR WGs, TFs and SCs Report

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date of report</th>
<th>21/5/2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>SC/WG/TF name</td>
<td>Working group on functional traits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Christa Egger-Danner, ZuchtData EDV-Dienstleistungen GmbH, Vienna, Austria; <a href="mailto:egger-danner@zuchtdata.at">egger-danner@zuchtdata.at</a></td>
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**Members**

- **Name, organization, country and year joined, email contact**
  - Lucy Andrews, Holstein UK, Scotsbridge House Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 3BB (joined 2006); lucyandrews@holstein-uk.org
  - Andrew John Bradley, Quality Milk Management Services, United Kingdom (joined 2010); andrew.brady@qmms.co.uk
  - John B. Cole, Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory, USA (joined 2010); John.Cole@ARS.USDA.GOV
  - Nicholas Gengler, Gembloux Agricultural University, Belgium (original member); gengler.n@isagx.ac.be
  - Bjorg Heringstad, Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences / Geno, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway (joined 2012); bjorhe@umb.no
  - Jennie Pryce, Victorian Departement of Primary Industries, Australia (joined 2006); jennie.pryce@dpi.vic.gov.au
  - Katharina Stock, VIT, Germany (joined 2010); Friederike.Katharina.Stock@vit.de

**Members left**

- Meeting(s) since June 2011
  - Next: ICAR-Meeting – Aarhus, 28th of May, 2013

**Participation**

- Full +: 6 out of 8
- Absence: 2

**Key Agenda Issues**

- Elaboration of concept for ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference
- Guidelines for female fertility
- Workplan with future priorities of work

**Important Decisions made since Cork 2012**

- none

**Active cooperation and links to other ICAR SC/WG/TFs and other international bodies such as ISO, EU, IDF, ISAG, world breed organisations,**

- Meeting with representatives from EU-Project “Gene2Farm” in Cork, participation in conferences of the world breed organisations, participation in workshops at EU-level

Functional Traits WG Report for May 2013
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<th>manufacturers etc</th>
<th>Draft of ICAR guidelines for Recording, Evaluation and Genetic Improvement of Female Fertility</th>
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| **Issues to be handled by the Board & Deadlines** | A survey concerning the present status on recording and evaluation of functional traits has been conducted in 2012. The needs of the ICAR-members within this field have been assessed as well. Based on the results of this survey the WG on functional traits elaborated a work plan with future priorities. **Objectives:** writing a portfolio of recommendation sheets on recording, evaluation and genetic improvement for functional traits in dairy cattle. Recommendation sheets will include following trait groups:  
  - general health  
  - udder health  
  - female and male fertility  
  - calving ease and stillbirth  
  - feet and legs problems  
  - workability  
  - survival  
  - metabolic stress and feed efficiency  

**Priorities of work**  
- general health - guidelines approved 2012  
- health workshop – organised in Aarhus 2013  
- udder health - guidelines need to be updated  
- female and male fertility +++  
- calving ease and stillbirth +  
- feet and legs problems +++  
- workability ++  
- survival ++  
- metabolic stress and feed efficiency +++  

| **Top 5 Issues for this SC/WG/TF** | **Priorities of work**  
- workshop / ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference in Aarhus 2013 (C. Egger-Danner responsible)  
- female fertility – draft prepared by J. Pryce  
- udder health - guidelines need to be updated (in work – J. Cole responsible)  
- publication of the results of the survey of the ICAR WGFT on functional traits (K. Stock responsible)  

| **Top 3 to 5 Issues for this SC/WG/TF** | **How does this SC/WG fit into ICAR strategy?**  
The importance of functional traits is increasing worldwide. Therefore there is need for standardisation and guidelines for recording and evaluation of these new traits. The survey carried out in 2012 resulted in increased demand for multidisciplinary workshops. Therefore the ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference has been organised. |
| **In the chair’s opinion how can the Secretariat give greater assistance to the working of the SC/WG?** | The assistance of the ICAR secretariat has been good and sufficient for the elaboration of guidelines as well as for the organisation of the ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference |

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