

Interbeef Technical Committee (TC-Beef)

Terms of Reference

1. Objective

The objective of the TC-BEEF is to identify and review technical issues that may be essential for providing a high quality service to organizations participating in the international genetic evaluations. This objective is achieved via the consideration of new or improved methods that increase the efficiency and accuracy of the evaluation service, while safeguarding the transparency of the services and its acceptability by Interbeef customers.

2. Mandate

- a. Make recommendations to the Interbeef working group (IWG) on methodological issues that impact international evaluation results and the service as a whole in order to assure that Interbeef procedures and results are technically sound and comply with the expectations of the participating organizations.
- b. Address the Interbeef working group requests of clarification regarding technical issues.

3. Membership

- a. The TC-BEEF shall consist of a group of highly regarded scientists, actively involved with research and development in the area of international evaluations, and experienced in national genetic evaluation procedures for beef cattle.
- b. Scientists from the Interbull Centre involved in Interbeef activities are invited to attend the TC-Beef meetings as observers and provide reports upon request.
- c. The organizations participating in Interbeef genetic evaluations will indicate TC-Beef representatives to the IWG which will make a decision on their appointment.
- d. TC-BEEF members would preferably be employed by an organization participating in the services. However the IWG would consider personal qualities as more important. Integrity and independence should characterize the members of the TC-BEEF, and it is important that they do not represent their organizations interests but their own capacity as scientists.
- e. The IWG will appoint the Chairperson of the TC-BEEF, whose mandate is to coordinate the TC-Beef and report to the IWG.
- f. The Interbull Centre will provide the secretarial support to the TC-Beef.
- g. A limited number of external experts on specific issues can attend meetings and discussions of the TC-BEEF. The Chairperson of TC-BEEF has the responsibility to invite and approve attendance of external experts.

4. Operational Issues

- a. Recommendations made by the TC-BEEF in accordance with item 2 should be reported to the IWG for approval prior to implementation.
- b. TC-BEEF recommendations should be accompanied by a summary of the information needed for the SC to make decisions, i.e. consequences, advantages, disadvantages, etc.

- c. TC-BEEF recommendations should be based on sound scientific principles, usually backed by research results, and not only on the views or experiences of the members of the TC-BEEF.
- d. The TC-BEEF should strive to make decisions and recommendations in consensus. However, a voting procedure may be necessary in some cases and only the appointed members will have voting privileges, with the Chairperson having the right to cast a deciding vote, if necessary. If a vote is taken each Service User represented will have one vote. Differences in opinion should be included in reports to the IWG.
- e. The TC-BEEF should have the option to refer issues to the Interbeef Scientific Advisory Committee.
- f. The TC-BEEF is not expected to consider matters relating to the strategic direction of the service.

5. Meetings

- a. The TC-BEEF should meet at least once per year, usually in connection with the ICAR meetings. The IWG and TC-BEEF Chairpersons should ensure that adequate time is allocated for such meetings. The meeting should normally precede the meetings of the IWG.
- b. Additional meetings may be held if the need and opportunity arise, but all TC-BEEF members are expected to make extensive use of the Interbeef discussion forums, e-mail communication, and possibly video-link conferences to create “virtual” meetings.

6. Resources

- a. The ICAR Secretariat operates the administration for the TC-BEEF, and covers costs associated with its meetings. However, the ICAR Secretariat will not cover salary or travel costs for the TC-BEEF members.
- b. The Interbull Centre may perform or arrange studies and prepare reports on issues relevant to the responsibilities of the TC-BEEF. This may be done in collaboration with groups as recommended by the TC-BEEF.

7. Reporting

- a. Meetings of the TC-BEEF should have an agenda that should be distributed to the members of the TC-BEEF in advance of the TC-BEEF meeting for review.
- b. Minutes should be kept of all meetings of the TC-BEEF and they should be distributed to the IWG. The minutes should separately identify all recommendations to the IWG.
- c. Recommendations made through “virtual” meetings should likewise be summarized and communicated to the IWG.