

INTERBEEF Working Group meeting
28th May 2013

Contents

1. Introduction & Welcome (Brian Wickham - Chairperson)	1
2. Agreement of Agenda	1
3. Minutes of Meeting 17 th January 2013 held in Stansted	1
4. Matters Arising	1
4.1. Publication Rules	1
4.2. New Service Users	2
4.3. Logo Protection	2
4.4. Interbull Meeting in Nantes	2
5. Report of Technical Committee	2
6. ICBF Research Proposal	3
7. Research proposal for development of international beef genetic evaluations for carcass traits – SRUC	3
8. Agreement for sharing costs and service fees	3
9. Priorities for Interbeef	4
10. Timetable	4
11. Future Meetings	4
12. Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants	5

1. Introduction & Welcome (Brian Wickham - Chairperson)

Participants and apologies: Attached as appendix 1.

The Chairperson welcomed participants.

2. Agreement of Agenda

Agreed as distributed in advance of meeting.

3. Minutes of Meeting 17th January 2013 held in Stansted

The minutes were adopted without change.

4. Matters Arising

4.1. Publication Rules

The proposal developed by the group appointed at the January meeting was presented by Laurent Griffon (*copy available on Interbeef Website*). The key elements of the proposal are:

To have its ITB EBV published, a bull must :

- ▶ have INTERBEEF reliability $\geq 0,50$ in at least one scale
- ▶ have at least 25 progenies with records taken into account in INTERBEEF evaluation
- ▶ be published in at least one country or have progenies in more than one country

During discussion a number of key points were made including:

- Each Service User applies its own rules for publication of “national” evaluations.
- The rules proposed are simple and clear.
- A flag will come back from ITBC indicating publication status in the base and scale of each Service User.
- The Interbeef EBV will be blanked on the scale of the Service User if the animal does not meet the criteria for publication.
- 1% of bulls have progeny in more than one country.

After discussion the proposal was adopted.

4.2. New Service Users

The Chairperson sent an email to potential new Service Users for 2013. Switzerland has signed, Germany has indicated they will make a decision on signing following this meeting, and Latvia will sign during the Aarhus meetings. SASB will not be signing due to limited interest at this stage. Charl will email Brian with an invitation to provide more information and support during the process of signing-up new service users.

Brian advised that the identification and pedigree validation functions are also valuable and should be used by all Service Users for all the breeds they represent.

4.3. Logo Protection

ICAR is proceeding with protecting the Interbeef Logo as agreed at the January 17th 2013 meeting in Stansted. Two quotations have been obtained and the work has been allocated.

4.4. Interbull Meeting in Nantes

Joao advised that the deadline for submission of titles for the joint session between Interbeef and Interbull on maternal traits is Friday 31st May. Scientists collaborating in Interbeef are strongly encouraged to report on their work at this meeting.

5. Report of Technical Committee

João provided a verbal report from the Technical Committee meeting held on Monday 27th May in Aarhus. Points covered in his report included:

- **Administrative matters** – this was the second meeting of the Technical Committee and was mostly on discussions of the March test run. All Service Users were represented except Sweden who provided written report and Finland, who were represented by Anders. Terms of reference are still being considered and will be discussed online and finalized in the near future. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Technical Committee would be held on Tuesday 27th August from 13:30 to 17:30, in Nantes during the Interbull / EAAP meetings.
- **Adjusted weaning Weight pilot run** – a report was provided by Mohammad to the Technical Committee and this was followed by country reports. The statistical software performed well. Concerns which are to be addressed include: parameter estimation and in particular low genetic correlations between countries, inconsistencies in reliabilities especially in the 0% to 8% range, and the reports provided by ITBC after each run.
- **Calving trait research** – the agreement with Czech collaborators was finalized and data released with animal identifications recorded. Country of birth and breed for all animals, and Czech identifications, for the animals provided by the Czech Republic, will be provided shortly after the meeting.

- **Using data from cross-bred animals** – a report from ICBF was considered and procedures for ensuring accurate estimates of heterosis and recombination will be the subject of further work by ICBF in collaboration with the ITBC (see proposal below).
- **Priority** – the TC recommend that priority be given to carcass traits in the expansion of services.
- **Presentation** - Mohammad presented a verbal report (*copy of slides on Interbeef Website*) to the WG meeting. It was clarified that the reference to multiple breed evaluations in his presentation referred in fact to the inclusion of data from cross-bred progeny in the individual breed evaluations (Refer to research proposal from ICBF below).

6. ICBF Research Proposal

A research proposal covering variance component estimation and use of cross-bred data in weaning weight evaluations was presented by Ross Evans (*see copy on Interbeef website*).

Three phases:

Phase 1. – a survey which may make use of ITBC surveying tools covering; Service User parameter estimation, data for use in estimation of genetic parameters. Agreement on access to Interbeef data, use Interbeef database and related servers. This phase should be completed by August 2013 and may be presented at the time of the EAAP meeting in Nante. The WG agreed that this should proceed on same basis as that for Czech research on calving traits. Details on use of computer resources is to be agreed between ITBC and the ICBF research team.

Phase 2 – consideration of data selection for variance component estimation using country editing criteria, using Mix99 to get priors and DMU to get SEs. First estimates in 3-5 months from today.

Phase 3 – integration of cross-bred data from animals with the relevant sire breed for appropriate breed evaluation. This will require the addition of cross-bred data to IDEA. Suggestions are made on how to store breed composition using an additional table which is populated for crossbred animals with breed code “XXX”. ITBC agrees with the solution proposed and would like feedback on any other options that exist. Cross-bred weight (and also carcass) data will be available from UK, Ireland and is potentially available from Spain.

The Working Group endorsed this ICBF proposal and agreed that it should proceed as rapidly as possible.

7. Research proposal for development of international beef genetic evaluations for carcass traits – SRUC.

Raph reported that this work is progressing in collaboration with ICBF and others. SRUC have funding for a position, which is being advertised. This Post Doc will be supervised by G. Banos at SRUC and D. Berry of Teagasc. A detailed proposal will be available for the next Working Group meeting. It was clarified that this research is dependent on an ability to handle cross-bred data as almost all carcass data comes from commercial herds many of which practise cross-breeding.

8. Agreement for sharing costs and service fees

Andrea Rosati joined the meeting for this part of the meeting. The funding and user fees proposal, based on the Interbull model as circulated was considered. Discussion covered a number of points including:

- The base fee is designed to cover the cost associated with the ITBC supporting a Service User.

- Additional fees will apply for new trait groups as and when they are added. These fees will reflect the extra costs at the ITBC of providing evaluations for these traits. It is not currently possible to provide estimates of these fees (which are a % of the full cost for the base service – pedigree & weight evaluations). Interbull currently charges from 5% to 25% for extra trait sets for dairy cattle.
- The extra cost for a new breed is relatively small and the model thus does not include a “breed” fee.
- Fees will be adjusted to generate some €100,000 income depending on Service Users who participate. The Chairperson will write to all Service Users to confirm participation for 2013 before finally setting the 2013 fees on the new basis for all Service Users.
- The number of animals in each breed for each Service User used in fee calculations will be provided to all Service Users. Any discrepancies will be investigated and corrections made where justified.

The funding and fee model was agreed and the Chairperson will now write to Service Users confirming participation on 2013 before finalising the fees to be invoiced.

9. Priorities for Interbeef

Priorities agreed are:

- To resolve parameter estimation, reliability and evaluation model questions at Technical Committee meeting in August.
- To have weight evaluations official in September 2013.
- To integrate new service users and validate identifications prior to next round of parameter estimations (July 2013).
- To expand the number of service users including those whose data is currently held by an existing Service User.
- To complete ICBF and Czech research.
- To start research of carcass traits.

10. Timetable

Valentina advised the timetable for 2013:

- Next routine evaluation will be in September – Sept 17th is deadline for data and evaluations will be available on September 31st.
- Data needs to be sent by July 1st for new Service Users. A mirror database will be made available to new Service Users to assist with data validation as soon as required.
- There will be extra validation work for existing Service Users as each new Service User joins. This work needs to commence as soon as possible and be completed by Sept 17th at the latest.
- The handling of invalid and not-verified animals must be decided in advance of Sept 17th. ITBC to co-ordinate this.

11. Future Meetings

- a. With EAAP / Interbull – 23rd to 25th August 2013. It was agreed that there should be an Interbeef contribution to the Interbull/EAAP meeting and that “*Maternal Traits in Beef Cattle*” is a theme that the Interbeef WG would support. João agreed to facilitate this.

- b. Technical Committee will meet on **Tuesday 27th August 2013 from 13:30 to 17:30.**
- c. The next Working Group meeting will be in Prague on Thursday 21st November 2013.
- d. There will be Working Group and Technical Committee meetings at the ICAR Conference in Berlin 19th to 23rd May 2014.

12. Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants

Last Name	First Name	E-mail	Aarhus
Aufdermauer	Tony	tony.aufdermauer@mutterkuh.ch	yes
Bucek	Pavel	bucek@cmsch.cz	apology
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Wickham	Brian	brian@consultwickham.com	yes

Key:

Apology = did not participate in meeting but did put in an apology.

Yes = was present in Aarhus for part or all of the meeting.

Remote = participated via Webex (for video) and Powownow (for sound) for part or all of the meeting.

Draft 20th January 2013

Reference: Macintosh HD:Users:bww>Data:Wickham Ltd:Customers:ICBF:Interbeef:Meetings:2013:May in Aarhus:Minutes INTERBEEF Working Group meeting 29 May 2013 v0.docx