



**INTERBEEF Technical Group meeting**  
**26<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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1. Opening

Andrew Cromie in his capacity as the incumbent chairman of the Interbeef Working Group announced Eric Venot as the new chairman of the Interbeef Technical Group replacing Joao Durr in the process.

Participants and apologies: Attached as appendix 1.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda which was circulated at the start of the meeting was adopted.

3. Minutes of Meeting May 2014 held in Berlin

The minutes were adopted without change. Brian Wickham stated that the Terms of Reference of the Technical Group were adopted at the meeting in Berlin and available on ICAR Interbeef webpage ([http://www.icar.org/Documents/Working Groups/Interbeef/Interbeef\\_Technical\\_Committee\\_ToR\\_v3.pdf](http://www.icar.org/Documents/Working Groups/Interbeef/Interbeef_Technical_Committee_ToR_v3.pdf)). This group is responsible for forming recommendations to be put to the Working Group for decision.



Eric Venot asked if there was any feedback on the minutes from Berlin. As there was no feedback Eric suggested to proceed to agenda item 4 and focus on the genetic evaluation results from the last test run.

4. Test run implementation report: genetic parameters and reliability computation.

Thierry Pabiou outlined the 3 main differences between the last two test runs.

- a) Firstly there was a change in some of the genetic correlations between countries. The Germany-France correlation was re-estimated due to a data problem identified in the previous run (See Berlin minutes for details).
- b) Secondly it was decided at the previous meeting that the default values for unconverged parameter estimates between countries were set too high previously (set to 0.9). These default estimates were now re-set to average of converged estimates (0.78 for Charolais and 0.79 for Limousine for direct weaning weight).
- c) Thirdly there was a change in the reliability software used calculation. There was a change from using Mix99 software to for reliabilities to MTEDC 5 (Pete Sullivan software). MTEDC 5 software improved the reliability overestimation problem.

Eric stated that 2 presentations on the INTERBEEF project were made at the last WCGALP in Vancouver (Eric Venot and Thierry Pabiou were the main authors). These presentations were available for viewing. Thierry will also give a talk at the forthcoming BCBC meeting in January 2015 in the UK. Brian Wickham stated that someone should contact Cesare Mosconi at ICAR to put the presentations up on the right place on the ICAR website.

Kirsty Moore asked if MTT were going to look at the reliability overestimation problem. Thierry Pabiou mentioned that he was going to raise this issue at the MIX99 users workshop next week (November 3 to 4<sup>th</sup>). Eric outlined the schedule of events with the most recent test run. Thierry provided new parameters by the end of June. Mohammed Nilforooshan performed a new evaluation run in MIX99 and reliabilities in MTECD5 in September which was all done at the INTERBULL centre. A conference call was held in October with ICBF, INRA and INTERBULL. It was agreed to have a distribution of new results in October. It was acknowledged that time was very short to analyse results ahead of this meeting.

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    results from the last test run
  - a. Country reports on results (CZE, FRA, IRL, UK, DNK, FIN, SWE, DEU)

Eric asked each country to give its feedback on the last test run results and indicate if they give the green light on their own proofs.

IRELAND - Thierry Pabiou.

ICBF operate a multi-trait, multi-breed evaluation with both pedigree and crossbred data. EBVs from foreign data centres are also incorporated into the national evaluation. Therefore comparison of ebvs from the INTERBEEF test run with the ICBF evaluation is complicated. However the results look good



(correlation of 0.72 and 0.7 for the Limousine and Charolais for all animals with no restriction on reliability).

Some potential ET issue may still be there as there were 147 cows with more than 25 progeny based on the INTERBEEF files. Thomas Schmidt said he would like to see the publication rules somewhere on INTERBEEF website.

Eric recommended that Thierry look to see if the ICBF national ebvs used in the comparison were base adjusted or not to see if this explained the difference in scale of the proofs.

⇒ Ireland were happy to progress with publication.

#### GERMANY - Friedrich Rheinhardt:

A correlation of 0.9 was found for direct and 0.85 for maternal for Limousine proofs. Germany are happy with the results as a multi-trait evaluation is carried out in Germany. Reliability correlations are lower but plausible based on the multi-trait evaluation.

⇒ Germany are happy to distribute results to national partners but will not make the proofs official in Germany until the new data included in a new run.

#### SWEDEN, DENMARK and FINLAND - Emma Carlin:

Emma checked the results for Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Correlation of 0.8 (FIN) to 0.95 (SWE). Denmark in between. Finnish data is old at this stage so lower correlation expected. 0.7 for maternal (FIN). Currently working on a joint Nordic model. Only looked at ebvs up to now, not reliabilities.

⇒ Sweden Denmark and Finland are happy to proceed with publication.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC - Pavel Bucek:

Genetic trends look very similar to national run. Correlation of 0.86 for all Czech animals for limousine. Maternal = 0.69. Charolais are similar. Direct correlation = 0.84. Maternal = 0.77.

⇒ happy to proceed to routine evaluation.

#### UK - Kirsty Moore:

Correlation of 0.85 for direct (Limousine). Reliability correlation is lower but when restricted to well proven sires reliability is 0.98. Results were used already as a demonstration to a UK breeder that the UK genetic evaluation system works and gives similar results to the French system.

⇒ happy to proceed to routine evaluation

#### FRANCE - Eric Venot:

Eric reminded that French weaning weight evaluation for Limousine also includes 120 day AWW as a correlated trait and also that data from other countries are included in the French evaluation but not in the INTERBEEF evaluation. Thus some changes in rankings were anticipated. However, Eric ran for this test evaluation a French evaluation for Limousine without 120 AWW and without foreign data. Limousine correlations were high 0.997 for direct and 0.981 for maternal, for both National results and the test evaluation. Charolais direct correlation is 0.999, maternal 0.997.

⇒ Happy to proceed with routine evaluation.



Eric added also other points of progress:

- Participating countries need to get details of animals pruned out for the INTERBEEF evaluation to help explain changes.
- No females in publication file now so ET issue now addressed.
- ET info could be added to pedigree at IDEA database for identification.
- Invalid IDs still not resolved. Needs discussion. Mostly historical data.
- Animal status and owner information could also be identified and made available.
- Each country has drawn genetic progress graph. It would be nice if this production can be included in the general Interbeef evaluation process.

SWITZERLAND - Christian Strickler.

Found large re-ranking but was concerned something was wrong in his analysis. Agreed to re-analyse and report back at a later stage.

⇒ No objections to proceeding to official publication.

b. Status of Interbeef evaluation of Weaning Weights

Eric Venot summarized the general consensus to move to an official evaluation early in 2015 after the next data call.

6. Technical discussion over official interbeef evaluation schedule

Thomas Schmidt asked about the status of Spains involvement in INTERBEEF. Brian Wickham announced that Spain are no longer part of INTERBEEF.

Eric asked for technical discussion on how to organise the next official run: dates needed to be decided for key deadlines i.e. data call, ebv run, distribution of results. Thierry Pabiou suggested a data call before the end of 2014, with an evaluation by mid-February 2015 and ebvs returned to the national evaluation centres by the end of February.

Pavel Bucek stated that it was not feasible for the Czech Republic to produce new data before 2015.

Andrew Cromie confirmed that INTERBULL have indicated they will set aside time towards the end January for an INTERBEEF test run.

Thierry Pabiou said that pedigrees need to be uploaded in January as there will be checks and work from this for the National evaluation centres. **Countries could commence uploading pedigree data straight away if they were in a position to do so.** Kirsty Moore suggested to work backwards from a proposed evaluation date and work out how much time is needed for pedigree validation.

The dates proposed by the Technical Committee are:

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2015 is the deadline for release of new run.
- Data call for performance data is 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2015.
- Pedigree validation should be finished by 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- Upload should take place at least 2 weeks before this so by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Eric suggested that he would get Interbull Centre feedback on the feasibility of the proposition.

Emma Carlin asked what should Sweden, Denmark and Finland do for this next run in the context of submitting pedigree and data separately or jointly.



Ross Evans suggested the 3 countries should upload separately as before for this run and look at a joint Nordic trait at a later test run.

## 7. Use of Interbeef results

### a. Use of Interbeef results in National evaluations – UK.

Kirsty outlined the approach the UK were considering in relation to the integration of INTERBEEF proofs back into the UK multi-trait evaluation. This work was to be undertaken with Raphael Mrode in the coming weeks. The approach will possibly be based on deregressing the INTERBEEF ebvs and using them as a correlated trait in the national multi-trait Limousine evaluation.

### b General discussion

Ross Evans outlined a similar approach as that described by Kirsty which ICBF were investigating. Integration is complicated as INTERBEEF ebvs contain information on data from country of origin now. To avoid double counting ICBF are looking at calculating Daughter yield deviations (DYDs) adjusted for parental contribution and using these as the correlated trait. Ross recommended that INTERBULL could calculate the DYDs and weightings based on reliability and provide these to the countries who want to blend the interbeef ebvs back in with the national evaluation.

Andrew Cromie suggested that countries need to submit proposals on how they will integrate the data back into national evaluations and what they will publish. This needs to be done ahead of publication. Eric Venot said that all participating countries should provide to the group how they will publish Interbeef results: he proposed to open a discussion on Interbeef forum on this and ask the countries to fill this information in.

Emma Carlin asked what was required around publication for Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Eric responded that countries should publish the ebvs once they become official. Brian Wickham suggested to finish the technical meeting with one recommendation which was to publish the weaning weight INTERBEEF ebvs.

Agenda items 8, 9 and 10 on the research partner updates were deferred to the Working Group meeting to take place immediately after this meeting.

## 11. Update on XML formats to upload data (ITBC)

Eric asked if there was any Interbull update on XML formats. Pavel Bucel stated to his knowledge there was no update and recommended caution on rushing into this at present. Eric will include discussion on xml files in his report to INTERBULL centre. There was a general consensus not to use xml format for the next data call.

## 12. Other matters

Eric stated there needed to be discussion on base adjustments.

Brian Wickham stated that the principle of INTERBEEF was access to foreign evaluations but it was the responsibility of national centres on how to publish, apply bases etc.



Eric stated there was a need for discussion on new traits and countries.

Charl Hunlun (Studbook SA) asked about new breeds participating. Brian Wickham said this was a working group issue. Friedrich Rheinhardt said he would like to add one idea to the workshop recommendations. Countries should provide INTERBEEF with list of animals they have tissue available on. Very important to catalogue what older animals are available to be genotyped. Eric Venot said he would ask the INTERBULL centre to provide feedback on the feasibility of service on listing of genotyped animals. Brian Wickham said this was an action point for Andrew Cromie in his capacity as chairman of the INTERBEEF Working group.

Next meeting:

There will be an INTERBEEF meeting in Krakow:

Brian Wickham: recommends

8<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon for the INTERBEEF technical committee.

9<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon for the INTERBEEF working group committee.

13. Recommendations to the working group

**Recommend official publication of INTERBEEF weaning weight ebvs after next routine run in February 2015.**

14. Adjourn

#### Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants

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Draft 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014