REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

ON MILK RECORDING OF SHEEP

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* Institut de l’Elevage - Toulouse, France

Niagara Falls - USA  16 – 20 June 2008

36th ICAR Session, Niagara Falls, USA, 2008

Working Group Members

J.M. Astruc            FRANCE (Chairperson)
F. Barillet            FRANCE
A. Carta               (new) ITALY
M. Fioretti            ITALY
E. Gootwine            ISRAEL
D. Kompan              SLOVENIA
F.J. Romberg           GERMANY
E. Ugarte               (new) SPAIN

Meetings of the WG

6 June 2006
17 June 2008

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## Terms of reference: main items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare updates for relevant appendices of the International Agreement of Recording Practices</td>
<td>- <strong>Guidelines</strong> No emendation this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advise Board and Secretary General</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare &amp; analyze survey</td>
<td><strong>Yearly enquiry</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stimulate new developments and report on new equipment, procedures and methods</td>
<td><strong>Cooperation within ICAR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-operation with relevant WG, SC and TF of ICAR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep contact with non ICAR organizations or persons in the field of competence</td>
<td><strong>Contact with non-ICAR organization in the dairy sheep field</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on the activities … Communication</td>
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## Yearly enquiry on-line

- Follow and stimulate ICAR recommendations
- Provide official figures to ICAR
- Biennial report (first report in 2008 available on the ICAR site)

From May 2006

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Yearly enquiry on-line

Green: ICAR countries having submitted data to the database

ONLY 13 submissions over 40 ICAR member countries

Remind regularly the countries

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Simplification of Milk quality recording

HIGH COST OF RECORDING IN SHEEP …

… SIMPLIFIED STRATEGIES OF RECORDING

- Only 21% of the recorded ewes are submitted to qualitative recording
- In France & Italy, only half the test-days are sampled (3/6 per ewe)

- Relevant for genetic purposes
- But not compatible with a too low accuracy of measures

Italy, France & Spain represent 90% of all the recorded dairy sheep in ICAR member countries

Thousands of ewes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Spain</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ewes in official milk recording</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewes with samplings/analysis</td>
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Co-operation within ICAR

⇒ SC on Recording Devices

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Before 2006</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007 - 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No device tested/agreed for sheep</td>
<td>First meters tested in sheep</td>
<td>1 meter passed ICAR tests</td>
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</table>

Are the guidelines relevant for sheep?

- Requirements are relevant for sheep and do not have to be relaxed.
- Separate approval for goats & sheep

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Co-operation within ICAR

⇒ WP on On-farm Milk Analysis

- Participation at the Working Party (Roma meeting on 17 November 2007)
- Milk analysis: same issue than for recording devices: analysis must be accurate enough, in order to compensate the low number of measures

⇒ WG on Milk Recording in Goats

Crossed participation at both WG

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Conclusion

- **Guidelines**: no emendation this year

- **Dairy sheep on-line enquiry**: report of 2008 available on the ICAR site and in the report of the group

- **Co-operation within ICAR**: Recording and analysis devices: keeping enough accuracy to be relevant with simplification of the recording designs and size of the flocks.