



ICAR NEWSLETTER

From the President

The 31st Session of ICAR in New Zealand was extremely successful. The large attendance of delegates, the good quality of presented papers and the excellent organisation contributed to this success. At the session important decisions were taken which will enable ICAR to face the new millennium.



Today Livestock farming world-wide is in a difficult position. Pressure on income is coming from both, reduced government support for prices and from the increasingly free and global market in goods and services. The member organisations must change their strategy to fulfill the needs and wishes of the farmers. ICAR is best qualified to provide member organisations with information, guidelines and services in a professional way.

In developing a long term strategy plan covering all the activities of ICAR, including the activities of Interbull and its Center, the following points should be considered:

1. ICAR must take world-wide the leadership for standardisation of animal recording. It should be an international organisation covering all aspects of registration, recording and evaluation of data for cattle, sheep and goats. In the future ICAR activities could be extended to include additional species.
2. ICAR should help to improve the quality of the total process of recording and evaluation. Improvement of both management and breeding records must be achieved. New ICAR recommended quality assurance systems could extend the range of assurance options available and could lead to changes in the current rules for granting and for the use of the Special Stamp.
3. The structure of ICAR should bring more flexibility to decision making. The recent changes in the structure of the Board and the establishment of an Executive Board are the first steps in this direction.
4. The ICAR's financial and fiscal position will be properly ensured by the registration as a non profit international non governmental organisation (INGO).
5. ICAR should follow a growth strategy to attract members from new countries specially from Central and Eastern Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.
6. ICAR should work closer with other international organisations dealing with animal recording.

The recent changes of the Constitution are a first step in this direction, allowing the World Breed Federations to become full member organisations.

I am confident that the future strategy of ICAR will be successful thanks to the active support of the member organisations. The current and new services of ICAR will allow the member organisations to prepare themselves for the new competitive conditions for the benefit of their farmers and breeders.

Dr. Joseph Crettenand, President

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ICAR Board Meetings

In our discussions in the Executive Board we have focused on two main issues:

- The future strategy of ICAR and Interbull
- The work of the ICAR and Interbull groups

In August we wrote to you about the appointment of Board members to fill the positions left vacant following the New Zealand meeting and seeking your views on the strategic options for ICAR and Interbull. We will send the letter for comments on Strategic Plan in September.

As we all approach the new millennium ICAR members will have many challenges to face. The much talked about millennium time bomb in our computer systems, the rapid changes in what our customers want from us and can afford to pay for services, and the challenges that we face in adopting and adapting to the emerging technologies. In all of these areas ICAR has a role to play, providing information and services to the membership.

The Board in developing a draft strategy plan in consultation with the Member organisations will do as much as it can to ensure that ICAR helps the ICAR and Interbull member organisations into the new millennium.

31st ICAR Session Report

More than 200 delegates from over 50 countries attended the 31st ICAR Session in Rotorua, New Zealand.

ICAR has grown in membership in recent years, moving from what used to be a largely European base to a membership which now includes countries in all continents.

New ICAR members

At the 31st Session delegates agreed to welcome World Breed Associations as ICAR members for the first time. The constitution changes required were agreed by the ICAR members.

From Rules to Guidelines

As a consequence of the increased scope of the ICAR membership and the changing market for recording services, ICAR itself has also had to change. The original emphasis on Rules for recording has been replaced with a new emphasis on Guidelines. Market and farming conditions determine what types of recording systems are most appropriate in ICAR member countries. The guidelines are there to provide information to member organizations on how to record and to record users on the methodology used by ICAR members.

Developing Countries

ICAR has also moved, in association with FAO to begin working with the recording organizations in developing countries. The ICAR developing countries task force reported on the workshop held in India hosted by the Indian NDDB at Anand.

Delegates from over 25 developing countries discussed the problems associated with establishing sustainable recording schemes in developing countries. With over 75% of the worlds cattle in the developing countries the ICAR task force will also have an important role to play in the future.

Copies of the report on the Developing Countries Workshop, ICAR Technical Series No.1 can be obtained from the Secretary General in Rome.

The bulk of the ICAR session was taken up with papers presented by people involved in every aspect of cattle, sheep and goat recording. Whilst it is unfair to select only a few topics amongst many when reporting on a full session, the following brief notes give some indication of the strategic issues covered at the ICAR Session.

Low cost milk production

New Zealand the Session Host country treated the delegates to a series of papers and farm visits which ably demonstrated how New Zealand farmers produce milk off grass profitably at world market prices. The focus on making sure that every input added more value than cost demonstrated clearly why New Zealand leads the way in profitable low cost milk production.

The business of recording

In most ICAR member countries Government grants to the cost of recording are being reduced and phased out. This has led to organisations looking for ways of reducing cost and improving the quality and content of service to the fee paying farmers.

One of the recurring themes in the Session was how to balance between the need to cut costs and the need to maintain accuracy. As the Session progressed it became clear that the approach most widely favoured was one of letting the market determine the level of service required by the user, but at the same time adding a "reliability" figure to the methodology used.

Bull proof accuracy can be maintained by increasing the numbers of daughters in an evaluation, while at farm level where individual cow data is required, accuracy can be maintained by more frequent recordings possibly on less accurate equipment. The ICAR guidelines will have to be updated to reflect the changing methods of recording and the new requirements for recording accuracy.

The outsourcing of laboratory testing is an increasing trend and delegates considered proposals from the Laboratories working group for a laboratory certification scheme.

Papers from delegates working in the fields of buffalo, sheep and goat recording all demonstrated different low cost approaches to animal recording. Where yields are lower and often the animals are kept in small groups, recording organisations have had to find low cost methods of recording both for breeding projects and for the production of farm management information.

As might be expected the use of PC programmes is beginning to dominate the world of records processing. Many speakers talked about PC based applications for record collection, records processing and records analysis.

Perhaps one of the most telling observations of the Session was made by the delegate who remarked that ICAR is not really about recording, it is all about animal information.

Delegates were treated to a treasure trove of papers on how to collect, how to process and how to use information. The conference proceedings now published by ICAR make interesting reading for anyone in the "animal information business."

Copies of the proceedings

The proceedings of the 31st Session are available from:

Wageningen Pers, P.O Box 42, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands

Performance recording of animals. State of the art, 1998

ISBN 90-74134-54-8; ISSN 0071-2477; NUGI 835

Test and Approvals Update

Identity Device update

Table 1. Below shows the manufacturer codes allocated by the identification and registration working group to date.

Manufacturer	Code	Product code	Technology	Usage	Description
Destron	985	985001	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric, glass encapsulated 2.1*12.5mm
		985002	FDX-B	Tag	disk like shape with shaft, black, 28.5*1.7*10.5mm
		985003	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric glass encapsulated 3.1*20.6mm
		985004	FDX-B	Tag	rectangular shape with shaft, yellow 38.0*31.5*1.3mm
Nedap	984	984001	FDX-B	Tag	conical shape, red, 22*12mm
Texas Instruments	983	983001	HDX	Tag	button like shape, 29*13mm
		983002	HDX	Inject	cylindric glass encapsulated, 3.9*31.5mm
		983003	HDX	Inject	cylindric glass encapsulated 3.9*23.2mm
Allflex	982	982001	HDX	Tag	button like shape, 29*13mm
		982002	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric glass encapsulated, 2.1*11.1mm
Datamars	981	981001	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric, glass encapsulated 2.1*13.3mm
Diehl-Ident	980	980001	FDX-B	Tag attachment	disk like shape, center hole, black, 30*1.6mm
Earlsmere I.D.	979	979001	FDX-B	Tag attachment	disk like shape, dark blue, 30*2.0mm
Ordicam	978	978001	FDX-B	Tag attachment	disk like shape, white, 28 (50) *1.7mm
Avid	977	977001	FDX-B	Bolus	cylindric, ceramic, white, 20*74mm
		977002	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric glass encapsulated, 2.1*15mm
Gemplus	976	976001	FDX-B	Tag	disk like shape with tab, yellow, 38*6mm, 61mm including tab
Sokymat	975	975001	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric, glass encapsulated 2.1*13.5mm
Impro	974	974001	FDX-B	Bolus	cylindric, plastic, grey, 25*104mm
Fujihira	973	973001	FDX-B	Tag	plastic tag, yellow, 2.5*60, 80mm including tab
Planet ID	972	972001	FDX-B	Inject	cylindric, glass encapsulated, 2.2*12.5mm
Alfa-Laval Agri	971	971001	HDX	Bolus	cylindric, ceramic, white, 19*65mm

Note. The allocation of a manufacturers code does not indicate the RFID device is ICAR approved.

Meters and Jars Update

The tables below show the position as at 31st August 1998

Table 2. List of provisionally approved meters.

Meter	Manufacturer
Bou-Matic M+ milk meter	Bou-Matic Dairy Equipment Division of DEC International USA
Bou-Matic Perfection 3000	Bou-Matic USA
Dairy Master Weighall	E.P. Harty and Co.Ltd Ireland
Favorit International	Agro-Vertriebsgesellschaft GmbH, Germany
Free-Flow (Flowmaster FF, Opticflow)	SCR Engineers Ltd. Israel
Lactocorder	Werkzeug- und Maschinenbau Berneck AG., Switzerland
Pulsameter 2	Labor-und Messgeräte GmbH Germany
Tru-Test HI Fast Empty	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test WB Ezi-Test	Tru-test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test WB	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand

Table 3. List of approved meters.

Meter	Manufacturer
Afikim (Fullflow)	SAE Afikim Israel
Dairy-Manager	Surge Babson Bros Co. USA
Flomaster 2000 / Alpro Flomaster Pro	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
JM 100	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
Level Milk Meter	Nedap Agri BV. The Netherlands
Manuflow 21	AB Manus Sweden
Meltec (Memolac 2)	Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany (Nedap Agri BV. The Netherlands)
Metatron	Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany
Milko-Scope MKII	Alfa Laval Agri AB, Sweden
MR 2000 (Combina 2000)	Gascoigne Melotte. The Netherlands
Tru-Test Auto sampler	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test F	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test HI	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Waikato MK5	Inter Ag, New Zealand

Note:The Manuflow 2 was provisionally approved. This meter has been replaced by the Manuflow 21.
The sampling device "Shuttle" of Lely in conjunction with the Level Milk Meter on the Lely milking robot is currently under test.

Table 4. List of meters currently under test.

Meter	Manufacturer
Accuweigh	Germania Dairy Automation, USA

Contact Names and Details

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Animal information details	To be decided			
Conformation recording	To be decided			
Sheep and goat meat production	To be decided			

ICAR and the WWW

For those readers with access to the World Wide Web try accessing at <http://www.icar.org>

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Request

Please let me know - as soon as possible - what you would like to be covered in future issues of the Newsletter and also the names and addresses of other people who you feel should receive it.

Secretary General

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