



ICAR NEWSLETTER

Focus on 32nd ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting, held in Bled, Slovenia

Preface

ICAR Newsletter has the goal to inform everybody interested in animal performance recordings (ICAR member, industry, researchers, etc.) about ICAR activities and recent developments in the domain of animal performance recording. ICAR Newsletter wish to acquire a reputation for offering up-dating information, hence ICAR Newsletter will be published on a regular basis with three issues per year (April, August, and December). ICAR offers technical activities through Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups; therefore recent activities will be published in each number of ICAR Newsletter. If you think you have some advise to give to improve the ICAR Newsletter, please send it to icar@eaap.org or to rosati.a@aia.it.

Ten years of the INTERBULL Centre

Dept. of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Uppsala, Sweden

In August 1990, after a series of discussions and considerations by members of INTERBULL, it was decided to accept the offer of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to host the INTERBULL International Genetic Evaluation Service. The operational responsibilities for the establishment of such a service were entrusted to the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics (DABG). As many of our readers are aware, the *INTERBULL Centre Uppsala* co-operates with member countries of ICAR/INTERBULL in research and development of methods for international evaluation of the genetic merit of cattle, maintains global data base on bull pedigrees and national evaluations and provides other relevant services to our Members. Our Member Organisations regularly review objectives, programmes and results of the Centre. However, the work and the profile of the host institution has remained somehow in the shadow of the main interest of our Members. Editors of the ICAR Newsletter have prepared these few lines to present the host of the *INTERBULL Centre*.

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (SLU) – the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences – conducts research and offers educational programmes within the fields of biological natural resources and biological production. The activities cover wide-ranging fields of agriculture, food industry, veterinary medicine and forestry as well as environmental protection, bio-energy and biotechnology. It was formed in 1977 by merging

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three previously independent university colleges, the oldest one dating back to 1775. The nation-wide character of the university activities and its location on 30 various places provides opportunity to study agriculture and forestry in the very divers ecosystems of Northern and Southern Sweden. Its aim is to develop man's understanding and sustainable use of biological natural resources through research, teaching, continuous environmental assessment and information extension. A specific feature of SLU is that it combines the tasks of both a university and research institutes within its mandate.

In the field of the animal production, the main preoccupation of the SLU researchers is an economically profitable production conducted under improved ethical conditions, giving animals greater opportunity for natural behaviour and good health. Animal breeding studies are directed towards the production of healthy animals yielding high quality meat and milk. These studies are carried out by the Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics which belongs both to the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. It is located at the Ultuna campus, some six kilometers south of the Uppsala city centre. The campus offers various meeting, teaching and conference facilities. It also hosts the central library, university administration as well as research centres for dairy, pig and poultry production and for animal nutrition and management.

As the only research and education unit in animal breeding in the country, it undertakes research, education and information on the qualitative and quantitative genetic background of traits and on the strategies and methods for development and use of genetic resources. It covers various fields such as basic genetics, cytogenetics, molecular genetics, breeding theory, biometry and system analyses, and animal species applications, genetics and breeding (cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, pet animals and reindeer). Capacity building on Animal Genetic Resources in developing countries has also become an important activity of the department. The staff of 75 includes 13 professors, lecturers and senior researchers as well as 15 researchers and 17 PhD students, who are also employed by the department. Its head since mid 2000 is prof. Jan Philipsson, who is also the secretary of Interbull. Of the total budget of the Department 55% comes from the external resources - EU, non-governmental funds, contract services and animal products from the experimental farms.

The Department provides office facilities and necessary equipment for the *INTERBULL Centre*, conducts research and facilitates the publication of research results in scientific journals. Relations between the Department and the ICAR/INTERBULL have been regulated by a Letter of Agreement signed by representatives of all interested parties – ICAR, the INTERBULL, Steering Committee, Department , University and the Centre itself. Since Dr. Georgios Banos left the Centre for a position at his home university in Thessaloniki, Dr. Ulf Emanuelson is managing the Centre.

32nd ICAR Session and the INTERBULL Meeting

The major event in the period since the issuance of the last Newsletter was the 32nd ICAR Session and the INTERBULL Meeting, held in Bled, Slovenia, in May 2000. The session was accompanied by a workshop on buffalo milk recording and a workshop on the role of the state and breeders associations in animal registration and recording in CEE countries. The Session was a great success in view of the quality of technical papers, number of participants and countries represented and an excellent organisation. The ICAR Session was attended by 338 participants from 57 countries, INTERBULL Meeting by 205 participants from 36 countries, CEEC workshop by 135 persons from 32 countries and the buffalo workshop by 69 participants from 18 countries. Proceedings of the ICAR Session will be published by WageningenPers in the EAAP Publication no. 98. Proceedings of the Buffalo Workshop was published in the ICAR Technical Series as issue no. 4, and is

available in ICAR web site (<http://www.icar.org/publicat.htm>). Proceedings of the Breeders' organisations in the CEE Countries are in press and will be available on the ICAR web site once published.

Revision of ICAR Guidelines

The Executive Board at its 7th Meeting held in Tunis in October 2000, agreed that the ICAR Guidelines and the International Agreement of Recording Practices should be updated and revised in accordance with the new ICAR Statutes and proposals made by Sub-Committees and Working Groups. Guidelines should be presented – both in the electronic and printed forms - in a user's friendly way. The Executive Board agreed with the proposal for the re-categorisation of various components of the Guidelines. The proposal included the establishment for monitoring and implementing the Guidelines. The new system will easily allow the up-dating of the Guidelines based on developments in performance recording. ICAR members and individual experts can participate in this process by the activities of Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups.

A first draft of the revised Guidelines will be presented at the ICAR General Assembly that will be held in Paris next May. The final draft will be thus presented for approval at the General Assembly in 2002.

News from Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups

SC Meters and Jars

A new procedure for testing milk meter specifically for sheep and goats, as much as for dairy buffaloes has been developed. Considering the broad application of robot system in dairy farms a new procedure for testing sampling devices for automatic milking system has been developed. One milk meter for official dairy cattle milk recording got the final approval (*Tru-Test WB* of *Tru-Test Ltd.*) and two recording devices got the provisional approval (*AccuWeigh Computerized System* of *Germania Ltd.* and the *Shuttle Device* of *Lely Industries*). All detailed information are available on the ICAR web site and also in page 6 of this Newsletter.

A new procedure of statistical treatment of farm test results was proposed by the Sub-Committee. The new procedure will be applied, together with the existing procedure, for the tests performed during the year 2001. During this period the lab test will use both the actual and the new statistical treatments procedures. Decisions for approval of tested devices will still be taken following the actual procedure. The test done in the transitional period will be used to check the "field" performance of the new test. The Sub-Committee will discuss at the end of 2001 about application of the new procedure after the transitional period.

The ICAR Sub-Committee Meters and Jars prepared a provisional list of jars having ICAR approval for use of official milk recordings. The models listed were considered following information sent by Recording Organizations that are ICAR members. The list is available on the Sub-Committee web page: We invite you to send to the Sub-Committee (rosati.a@aia.it) advices or information able to improve the present list.

Two new laboratory test centers recently join the ICAR family:

- The *Institut für Chemie und Technologie der Milch der Bundesanstalt für Milchforschung Hermann*, located in Kiel (Germany), under the responsibility of Dieter Ordolff. The

laboratory had been in the past and for some years an ICAR laboratory test center, and now is operating again.

- The *Milking Research and Instruction Lab of the University of Wisconsin - Biological Systems Engineering Dept.*, located at Madison, Wisconsin (USA) under the responsibility of Douglas J. Reinemann.

The laboratory test center managed by Steve Spencer (USA) ceased the activity.

Members of the Meter and Jars Sub-Committee are: Andrea Rosati (Italy) (Chairman), Michel Blanchard (France), Laust Jepsen (Denmark), Heiko Jurgens (Germany), Stefan Mihina (Slovakia), Paul Miller (USA) and Dusan Nosal (Switzerland).

Responsible of ICAR laboratories test centers are Pierre Billon (France), Kees De Koning (the Netherlands), Niels P. Madsen (Denmark), Dieter Ordolff (Germany), Douglas J. Reinemann (USA) and Franco Sangiorgi (Italy).

Next meeting: 25-26 June 2001 in Nitra (Slovakia).

Task Force on Developing Countries

The Task force on Developing Countries proposes to organize regional workshop where to bring in policy makers and technicians from that region and discuss the issues related to establishing recording and genetic improvement systems. Also the organization of a training program for operating people in some places in developing countries where some recording and genetic evaluation systems are in place. The Task Force also proposes the creation of a database at a suitable place for providing information on all aspects of animal recording and genetic evaluation in developing countries.

WG Milking Test Laboratory

Since 1994 the Milking Testing Laboratory working group has set up and animated an international DHI reference laboratory network. Since then the network constitutes an effective tool to develop quality assurance and harmonize analytical practices in milk recording laboratories. Nowadays the number of laboratories joining the network is 33 from 28 countries..

- Preparation of a document describing national quality assurance system and quality of individual routine laboratories.
- Open active link with other WGs and SCs about new developments in milking devices and measurement of milk production at farm.
- Creation of an international laboratory network for small ruminants.

Next meeting: 14 May 2001 – San Pellegrino (Italy)

Wg Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance working group was recently formed with the purpose of developing standards and guidelines for quality assurance of animal recording, review the need for ICAR Special Stamp and take over the results of the work completed by the Accuracy working group and the Audit working group related to Interbull activities. The new working group will define the guidelines on quality assurance for:

- National data recording.
- National estimation of breeding values.
- International breeding value estimation.

For each of the above points the working group will define the criteria of quality in recording, the auditing of quality and will prepare a list of the documentation to be published for other members.

The members of the working group are: Jarmo Juga (Finland) (chairman), Ulf Emanuelson (INTERBULL), Petra Galesloot (the Netherlands), Pierre-Louis Gastinel (France), Jurgen Klaus (Germany), Paul Miller (USA), Robert Poole (Australia), Brian Van Doormaal (Canada).

WG Functional Traits

The Functional Traits working group was formed during the ICAR General Assembly held in Bled, with the purpose of stimulating development of functional trait recording.

The plan is to start working according to the terms of reference, simultaneously on five traits group, with a writing group for each trait (each writing group chaired by a working group member, and other writing group members from science and industry).

The members of the working group currently are: Ab Groen (the Netherlands) (chairman), Nicolas Gengler (Belgium), Hans Soelner (Austria), Erling Strandberg (Sweden).

WG Beef Performance

The Beef Performance working group managed the international survey on beef cattle performance recording, conducted by Dr. Simianer. The report was sent to each member and received back. Now the report is published on Internet (<http://pc-howarth.une.edu.au/icar.html>) so that everybody can check the completeness and correctness. After the last revision, the survey will be used to better standardize the performance recording methods around the world and to check the possibility to implement a correct international genetic beef cattle evaluation system.

Members of the working group are: H. Schild (Germany) (chairman), D. Bullock (USA), C. Diaz (Spain), B. Furst-Waltl (Austria), H.U. Graser (Australia), A. Grogan (Ireland), L. Journaux (France), C. Michaux (Belgium), D. Pullar (United Kingdom), A. Rosati (Italy), F. Szabo (Hungary), J. van der Westhuizen (South Africa).

Next meeting: 21-22 May 2001 Paris (France)

WG Milk Recording in Goat

During the last ICAR Board it was decided to *freeze* the actions of this working group to better reorganize its activities. At its last meeting the Executive Board discussed this matter in depth and it was proposed that the Milk Recording in Goat Working Group should re-deployed for the next two years considering Eastern Europe as the pivotal area approach. In this context, during the Paris meeting, the Executive Board will propose advancing in this new direction, nominating a Convenor (not a chairman) from Eastern Europe.

ICAR Web Space

The Internet site was submitted to a complete reconstruction. The ICAR web site wishes to become an essential tool for all technicians related to animal performance recording and evaluation around the world. We want this tool be informative, up-dated and easy-to-use.

Therefore, if you believe this is not the case, let us know how could we improve it. Meters and Jars SC is the first ICAR activity to develop an *ad hoc* web space (www.icar.org/sc_meter.htm).

The Meters and Jars Sub-Committee web space is available for everybody interested (ICAR member technicians, Manufacturers, Industry technicians, dairy animal policy makers, etc.) and describe the Sub-Committee activities, the list of approved milk recording devices, last decisions and proposal, member list of the Sub-Committee and list of ICAR testing laboratories. The organisation of the web space will be improved in the next months and will be used as example by other Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups.

It is desired that such structure could be applied to other groups, too. The Secretariat is totally available in receiving inputs and contents from the responsible of each ICAR activities.

The site contains a new page that is regularly updated (What's new), listing the latest information added to the site. Thus, instead of browsing the all pages in searching of fresh information, it is now possible to scroll only this page. A new map was introduced in the homepage, making graphically easier the whole content of the site; such information is also recalled in the page "Site map".

Table 1. List of approved Milk Meters (at March 2001).

Meter	Manufacturer
Afikim (Fullflow)	SAE Afikim Israel
Bou-Matic Perfection 3000	Bou-Matic USA
Dairy-Manager	Surge Babson Bros Co. USA
Dairy Master Weighall	E.P. Harty and Co.Ltd Ireland
Favorit International	Agro-Vertriebsgesellschaft GmbH, Germany
Flomaster 2000 / Alpro	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
Flomaster Pro	
Free-Flow	SCR Engineers Ltd. Israel
JM 100	Alfa Laval Agri AB Sweden
Lactocorder	Werkzeug- und Maschinenbau Berneck AG., Switzerland
Level Milk Meter	Nedap Agri BV. The Netherlands
Manuflow 2 and 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
Pulsameter 2	Labor-und Messgeräte GmbH Germany
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
Tru-Test WB Ezi-Test	Tru-test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test HI Fast Empty	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Tru-Test WB	Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand
Waikato MK5	Inter Ag, New Zealand

Request

Please let us know what you would like to be covered in future issues of the Newsletter or suggestions to improve its content.

Table 2. List of provisionally approved Milk Meters (at March 2001).

Meter	Manufacturer
Afiflo 9000	SAE Afikim Israel
Bou-Matic M +	Bou-Matic Dairy Equipment Division of DEC International USA
AccuWeigh Computerised System	Germania Ltd., USA
Shuttle Device (Sampler for automatic milking system)	Lely Industries , The Netherlands

Table 3. List of the aims and Chairperson of Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups.

Name	Purpose	Chairperson/Contact
SC INTERBULL	Develop international genetic comparison of cattle	Jean Claude Mocquot jean-claude.mocquot@inst-elevage.asso.fr
SC Meters and Jars	Test, approve and control recording devices	Andrea Rosati rosati.a@aia.it
SC Identification	Testing, approval and control of identification devices	Reinhard Pauw pauw@lkv-rheinland.de
TF Development Fund	Expand ICAR activities beyond developed countries	Kamlesh Trivedi krt@anand.nddb.ernet.in
WG on Quality Assurance	Develop standards and guidelines for quality assurance of animal recording	Jarmo Juga jarmo.juga@faba.fi
WG on Lactation Calculation Methods	Identify improved lactation yield estimate procedure	Filippo Miglior miglior@cdn.ca
WG on Animal Data Recording	Develop industry standard data model for animal recording and protocols for transfer of farm data	Julian Bryan julianb@nmr.co.uk
WG on Functional traits	Stimulate development of functional trait recording	Ab Groen ab.groen@alg.vf.wag-ur.nl
WG on Milk Testing Laboratories	Improve efficiency and effectiveness of milk testing laboratories	Olivier Leray leray@poligny.inra.fr
WG on Milk recording in Goats	Establish milk recording standards for goats	Convenor to be nominated in May 2001
WG on Milk Recording in Sheep	Establish milk recording standards for sheep	Jan Michel Astruc astruc@toulouse.inra.fr
WG on Beef Performance	Facilitate development of beef recording	Hans Jurgen Schild hans.schild@lkv.bayern.de
WG on Artificial Insemination and Relevant Technologies	Improve data collection associated with artificial insemination	Alain Malafosse alain.malafosse@unceia.fr
WG on Conformation Recording	Stimulate recording of conformation traits in additional breeds and species	David Hewitt davidhewitt@holstein-uki.org
WG on Milk Recording of Buffalo	Stimulate milk recording in buffalo	Bianca Moioli isz@flashnet.it
WG on Sheep Meat Recording	Develop guidelines and standards for meat, fibre and reproduction traits in sheep	Robert Banks rbanks@metz.une.edu.au

ICAR Board (at April 2001)

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 M. Jeffries (New Zealand); Vice-President (mjeffries@lic.co.nz)
 A. Rosati (Italy); Vice-President (rosati.a@aia.it)
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 B. Russell (Canada); Auditor (barry@adlic-patlq.mcgill.ca)

Publications

- A) The situation of "Milk and beef performance recording" in ICAR countries (annual inquiries) is published on a biennial basis. These documents are produced and edited by l'Institut de l'Elevage, Paris, France. The data for milk (1996-1998) and beef survey (1998) are freely available (as PDF files) in the web site (<http://www.icar.org/publicat.htm>).
- B) The "Performance recording of animals" is a biennial publication, published by WageningenPers.
- C) ICAR Technical Series books are published on *ad hoc* basis. Until March 2001 four books were already printed out:
 - K.R. Trivedi (Ed.), International Workshop on Animal Recording for Smallholders in Developing Countries, Anand (India) 20-23 October 1997. I.T.S. no. 1.
 - T. Vares, M. Zjalic & C. Mosconi (Eds), Cattle Identification and Milk Recording in Central and Eastern European Countries, Warsaw (Poland), 23 August, 1998. I.T.S. no. 2.
 - S. Galal, J. Boyazoglu & K. Hammond (Eds), Developing breeding Strategies for Lower Input Animal Production Environments, Bella (Italy) 22-25 September 1999. I.T.S. no. 3.
 - B. Moioli, J. Mäki-Hokkonen, S. Galal & M. Zjalic (Eds), Proceedings of the Workshop on Animal Recording for Improved Breeding and Management Strategies for Buffaloes, Bled, (Slovenia) 16-17 May 2000. I.T.S. no. 4

In press:

- The role of the state and breeders' organisations in animal identification and recording in Central and Eastern Europe. Proceedings of the Workshop held in Bled, (Slovenia) 16-17 May 2000. I.T.S. no. 5.

Next ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting in 2002

Next 33rd ICAR Session will be held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 28 to 31 May, 2002. INTERBULL meeting will take place also in Interlaken from 26 to 27 May, 2002.

For further information, please contact the Secretariat at the following address:

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