



ICAR NEWSLETTER

Focus on Executive Board and General Assembly, Paris, 19 May 2001

We had so many topics to cover in the second issue of the new edition of the ICAR Newsletter that we were forced to postpone some topic to the next number (to be published in December 2001), including an update of the Interlaken 2002 ICAR session arrangements. We stress in this number the main points discussed and the decisions taken in the meetings held in Paris in May (Executive Board, Board, General Assembly and meeting with Board and the Chairpersons). The main decisions taken in the most recent working groups meetings are also outlined. More detailed information are available in the specific space of the ICAR web site. The list of approved measurement and identification devices for animal recording are not detailed in this issue. They are available anyway in the web site.

ICAR produced the 6th book of the Technical Series, having title *Beef Recording Guidelines, Synthesis of an ICAR Survey*. The book is actually printed and will be shortly posted to ICAR members and available on the web.

Meeting of the Board

Following the meeting of the Executive Board, held in Paris on May the 17th, attended by J. Crettenand (President), M. Jeffries (Vice-President), A. Rosati (Vice-President), E. Rehben (Treasurer), J. Boyazoglu (Secretary General) and J.-C. Mocquot (invited as Chairman of Interbull), the Board met also in Paris, on May the 18th [J. Crettenand (President), J. Boyazoglu (Secretary General), M. Jeffries, P. Miller, J.-C. Mocquot, R. Pauw, E. Rehben, A. Rosati, K. R. Trivedi, T. Vares (members) were present; N. Ratheiser (Auditor); and J. Philipsson (Secretary of Interbull) were present as observer. E. Couto and M. Zjalic (ICAR Secretariat) were also in attendance].

J. Crettenand informed about the main activities since the last Board meeting, including the follow up of the Executive Board.

J. Bryan resigned from the Board due to a change of employment. NMR as Active Member from England proposed F. Armitage to replace J. Bryan as the Member of the Board. The Board approved and will post the proposal to the General Assembly for the election for the remaining term of office.

The Board nominated F. Armitage as Convenor of the Working Group on Animal Data Recording, to replace J. Bryan. The new Convenor was requested to prepare the Terms of Reference, to establish the Group and to report at the Interlaken Session.

The Board took note of the interest of member organizations from CEEC countries for the Working Group on Goat Milk Recording, decided to nominate D. Kompan from Slovenia as new convenor of the Group and to re-activate the Group.

ICAR member from the Slovak Republic requested the Special Stamp, but the visit of the commission was postponed because of the overall sanitary situation (foot and mouth disease).

J. Boyazoglu informed on the request for a full membership in ICAR received from the Animal Data Center (ADC) of the United Kingdom. The Board

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Secretary General:

Via Nomentana 134,
00162 Rome (Italy)
Tel: +39-06-86329141
Fax: +39-06-86329263
E-mail: icar@eaap.org

Editor:

Andrea Rosati: rosati.a@aia.it

agreed on the admission of ADC as a second full member, subject to the confirmation from the part of NMR that the ADC's activities do not overlap with those of NMR as the first member from the UK.

The Board approved the 2000 financial report, presented by Rehben.

J. Boyazoglu presented the situation of the membership fees and drew attention to those members that did not honor their obligations for more than two years – a period considered for membership retention for INGOs.

The Board adopted the final budget for 2002 and the provisional budget for 2003 and decided to propose it to the General Assembly for the approval. The Board requested the Secretariat to place the membership fee structure on the ICAR web site.

M. Jeffries proposed the changes to improve presentation of Guidelines. The Executive Board agreed to propose to the General Assembly the draft Resolution for the approval. The period between the two General Assemblies should be used for collection of proposals and suggestions from member organizations for the inclusion into the final text. Amendments adopted by Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups should be submitted to the Executive Board for provisional approval. Provisionally approved parts should be placed on the ICAR web site for comments by Member organizations. In case of a conflict between provisionally approved and approved norms, the later ones would be valid.

The Board agreed that drafts bylaws for the approval at the Interlaken session should be sent to Member organizations by end October 2001 for comments and additional proposals. The Secretariat should collect comments and proposals from member organizations by end of November.

A. Rosati informed that the Executive Board discussed a proposal for the preparation of a general review of the possible application of DNA analysis in fields of ICAR mandate and competence (animal identification, parentage recording, genetic evaluation, and others).

A. Rosati informed that the test center at the Pennsylvania State University stopped its activities, and that two new centers were established Federal Agricultural Research Station (Germany) and Laboratory Center of the University of Wisconsin (USA). The Board recognized both centers as proposed by the Sub-Committee Meters and Jars.

The Board supported the proposal of K. Trivedi for the strengthened co-operation with ILRI and requested K. Trivedi and J. Philipsson to proceed in developing proposals for joint actions to be undertaken with ILRI.

P. Miller proposed that the implementation of the ICAR Strategic Plan be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board. The proposal was accepted.

The President informed that the Tunisian Member confirmed the invitation to host the ICAR Session in 2004. Argentina and Finland offered to host the 2006 session.

J. Boyazoglu informed that the ICAR Technical Series 4 and 5 on recording in CEEC and on buffalo recording were published. Both publications were placed on the ICAR web site. The Secretariat published a leaflet on ICAR. Rosati prepared the Newsletter in co-operation with the ICAR Secretariat.

The next meeting of the Board would be held on Saturday, 25th May 2002 in Interlaken Switzerland, from 09.00 to 15.30 hours.

ICAR General Assembly

The General Assembly was held on 19 May 2001, in Paris. The Assembly was attended by delegates from 32 Member Organisations. The Assembly had the quorum of participants.

The President underlined that the period between the two sessions of the General Assembly was marked by intensive activities carried out by Member organisations and ICAR bodies: ICAR Statute, adjustment of the International Agreement for Recording Practices and the ICAR Guidelines, new Statutes, monitoring activities of Sub-committees and Working Groups, publication of the 32nd ICAR Session and two ICAR Technical Series, ICAR web site on the Internet was restructured and enlarged,

E. Rehben, Treasurer of ICAR, introduced the Statement of Accounts for 2000: the total income was Euro 213.163,00 (Euro 218.575,00 in 1999). N. Ratheiser and B. Russell audited the accounts for the fiscal year 2000. On 31st December 2000, the balance (net assets) amounted to Euro 127.722,00. The General Assembly unanimously approved the statement of accounts and auditors' report for 2000. The General Assembly also unanimously approved the final budget for the year 2002 and the provisional budget for the year 2003 having the same figure of the budget for the year 2002

M. Jeffries informed on the activities undertaken by the Executive Board in revising the International Agreement for Recording Practices and ICAR rules.

The President informed that J. Bryan resigned as the ICAR Board and the Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Recording Data. NMR as Active Member from England and the Board proposed Frank Armitage to replace J. Bryan as the Member of the Board. F. Armitage was unanimously elected member of the ICAR Board.

The President announced that the first part of the next session of the General Assembly would be held on the 28th of May 2002 and the second part on the 30th May 2002 in Interlaken, Switzerland. H. Kuenzi, president of the Swiss National Organising Committee for the 33rd ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting, informed on the status of preparations for the ICAR 2002. The President informed that the 34th ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting would be held in Tunisia in 2004. K. Neffati of Tunisia confirmed the invitation of the Tunisian Member organisation. Dates would be determined in consultations between the host Member and the Executive Board. Argentina and Finland placed their candidacy to host the session in the year 2006.

In closing the Session, the President noted that the organisation predecessor of ICAR was established 50 years ago in Paris. INTERBULL was marking its 25th anniversary also in 2001. He underlined that each of these organisations and particularly activities undertaken after their merger greatly contributed to the development of the animal industry in the world.

Meeting of the ICAR Board with Chairpersons of Sub-Committees, Task Force and Working Groups

The meeting was held in Paris on 19 May 2001. The meeting is a good summary of all technical activities made by the ICAR Sub-Committee, Working Groups and Task Force in the last year.

Sub-Committees and Working Groups as owners of Guidelines have particular responsibility to monitor their implementation. They should also ensure that new technologies and scientific results were properly reflected in updates.

Chairpersons then informed about the activities of each Sub-Committee, Task Force and Working Group:

J.-C. Mocquot (Interbull) and J. Philipsson informed that G. Banos left the Interbull center and an expert from Denmark was recruited. U. Emanuelsson took up duties of the director of the Centre. A report on the evaluation of production traits for 25 countries has been completed. Seven countries participate in the first routine evaluation of conformation traits for Jersey breed. The beginning of the genetic evaluation of health traits was considered as the most important achievement. Eleven countries participate in the first genetic evaluation of somatic cell count. A research work has been initiated in the evaluation of traits of small breeds. The Centre has initiated the review of fees for evaluation of additional traits. The Interbull guidelines would be presented to the Budapest meeting for approval. The German Government would support a project aimed at developing software to monitor genetic evaluation systems in various countries. A panel was established to review the implementation of the agreement with the North American consortium regarding the renewal of the agreement. J.-C. Mocquot noted that Interbull was developing two types of activities: services to all members and specific services for group of clients. In his view, both directions were important and should be developed in accordance with requirements of breeders.

A. Rosati (Meters and Jars) informed that the Sub-Committee, since the meeting in Bled, developed and approved: the new statistical method to test milk meters, the procedure to test milk meters for small ruminants, the procedure to test milk meters for buffalo. A testing procedure

for the accuracy of sampling in automatic milking system was developed. The Sub-Committee produced a list of approved jars so as to make it possible for member organisations to check the use of approved jars. The ICAR Board approved two new test centres (from USA and Germany) as proposed by the Sub-Committee.

R. Pauw (Identification) informed that most of activities has been concentrated on the development of tests for the identification devices and elaboration of test protocols with new guidelines for testing of electronic devices for animal identification. Tests were made to transponders (47 types of ear tags, boluses, injects, attachments) produced by 26 manufacturers.

K. Trivedi (Development Fund) organised three workshops (proceedings have been published in the ICAR Technical Series) to provide information on a variety of production systems to be used as the base for development of specific recording and evaluation systems for these production systems.

H. Schild (Beef Recording) intended to enlarge the group with experts, which would be more active in the preparing new comprehensive guidelines for beef recording. The group discussed the study prepared by Dr. Simianer and the preparation of the dictionary of beef traits (in co-operation with ISO) and the ultrasound measurement in cattle. The purpose of the study was to collect data on the existing national frameworks, that would be used as the base for the development of new comprehensive guidelines for beef recording.

J. Juga (Quality Assurance) remembers that the group, established after the Bled Session, was working through email correspondence between members. J. Juga said that both quality assurance in genetic evaluation and correctness and appropriateness of methods and data management required further consideration particularly in view of the gradual introduction of quality assurance systems in the major part of Member organisations. The group should start its work by concentrating on a smaller number of specific issues. The scope of the group will be enlarged once the first experience and results have been known.

F. Miglior (Lactation Calculation Methods) reported that two ongoing studies on the milk recording data collected in automated systems would be used for the preparation of provisional guidelines for lactation calculation in automated milking systems.

A. Groen (Functional Traits) could not attend the meeting and had sent information on terms of reference and activities of the group to Rosati. The purpose of the group is to supply members with standards, guidelines and recommendations to record functional traits.

F. Armitage (Animal Recording Data) was appointed as the new convenor the group. In his first address to the meeting, F. Armitage underlined the need for co-ordination with other groups.

O. Leray (Milk Testing Laboratories) informed that support the development of analytical methods has been done in close co-operation with the International Dairy Federation (IDF). The group adopted guidelines and protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers for the official approval by ICAR. The ICAR would issue a provisional approval of guidelines once comments and suggestions from member organisations have been collected, within the given time frame, preferably before the Interlaken session. The group has been implementing an accreditation system for milk laboratories. In the co-operation which started in 1996, a network was composed of 39 laboratories from of 19 countries was established. New items for group's involvement include analysis of milk of small ruminants in view of the growing interest for this problem among member countries from the Mediterranean. The measurement of fat and proteins and development of rapid analytical methods would be the first steps in this direction. The establishment of a network of laboratories for small ruminants would be the next project of the Group.

J. M. Astruc (Milk Recording in Sheep) informed that the updating of Guidelines (present international regulations) on sheep milk recording was done in two parts – the formal adjustment to the ICAR Statutes done in co-operation with M. Jeffries and the ICAR team, and the introduction of a simplified recording method "D" in Guidelines before the Interlaken Session. In addition, the Group was planning to introduce the method "E" applied mainly in Germany to control only selected ewes suckled by lambs but controlled on a Test day. The Group closely co-operated with the Sub-Committee Meters and Jars in the approval of testing and recording devices for small ruminants. A biennial survey has been regularly prepared for the submission to the regular ICAR Sessions. The next issue of the survey containing the review of milk production for the submission in Interlaken is under preparation.

B. Muioli (Milk Recording in Buffaloes) informed that activities of the last year included editing of the proceedings of the workshop on milk recording for herd management and genetic improvement and the production of guidelines for buffalo milk recording.

A. Malafosse (Artificial Insemination and Relevant Technologies) notified that the group completed the work on straw identification and prepared the relevant part for the inclusion in the ICAR Guidelines. It undertook the work on the definition of the non-return rate to be used in computer programmes. The draft would be circulated in this year and submitted to the meeting of the group to be held in Budapest in August 2001. The future care for codes was transferred to Interbull for monitoring, keeping and updating. A. Malafosse noted that breed codes existed in a number of countries and that the elaboration of new codes should take into account the work so far done. The breed codes as presented in the ICAR guidelines related to breeds that represent over 95 per cent of the international trade in semen.

D. Hewitt (Conformation Recording) informed that Jersey, Ayrshire, and Guernsey and Holstein federations nominated their representatives in the working group. It was expected that other federations including beef breed federation would nominate their representatives and that the first results would be presented in Interlaken. The group co-operated with the beef recording working group in the preparation of new guidelines for scoring of muscularity.

R. Banks (Sheep Meat, Fibre and Fertility) could not attend the meeting and had sent information on terms of reference and activities of the group to Rosati. Rosati informed about the received proposals to prepare the terms of reference.

D. Kompan (Slovenia) was appointed by the Board as new convenor for the goat milk recording working group. He must produce new terms of reference, complete membership of the group with interested experts from eastern part of Europe and convene the first meeting of the group.

Everybody agreed that Sub-Committees and Working Groups were responsible for the quality and correctness of the language used in their respective technical documents.

J. Crettenand declared that the next meeting of the ICAR Board with the Chairpersons would be held on the 27th of May 2002, at Interlaken, Switzerland, during the 33rd ICAR Session and Interbull Meeting.

The President expressed satisfaction with the work done. Three years ago, the first meeting of the Board with Chairpersons was held in Rotorua. In comparing the situation of three years ago with the present, he concluded that all Sub-Committees Working Groups and Task Force have attained higher level of quality in their work. Changes in the composition of various groups as well as the nomination of new chairpersons have brought fresh ideas and high motivation.

Meeting of Meters and Jars Sub-Committee

The meeting of the Sub-Committee Meters and Jars took place in Nitra (Slovakia) on June the 25th 2001. Blanchard, Jepsen, Jurgens, Mihina, Nosal and Rosati (Chairman) and Billon, De Koning, Sangiorgi (Italy), as representatives of test centers, participated to the meeting.

The list of final and provisional approved devices was updated. The milk meter *Afiflo 2000*, produced by SAE Afikim (Israel), obtained the provisional approval, and the *Afiflo 9000*, also produced by SAE Afikim (Israel), obtained the final approval. A. Rosati informs also of the currently tested devices, noting that among the sampling devices in use for sampling in the automatic milking systems (milking robots) only the *Shuttle* sampling device of *Lely Robot* got the provisional approval for official milk recording. All others sampling systems can not be used because were not tested at all, thus ICAR does not allow their use and does not have information about accuracy and the working level of such systems for milk recording sampling. Currently there are two systems that asked to be tested but no experiences are available.

The Sub-Committee Meters and Jars were appointed as pilot basis to organize a specific web space in the ICAR web-site. Rosati informs that many informations are currently available on the web-site (http://www.icar.org/sc_meter.htm). All members will work to improve and update the web-site. A new page to be used as "discussion box" will be produced in autumn.

The portion relative to the Sub-Committee of ICAR Guidelines has been mainly reviewed and all details and updating will be introduced to be ready for the next ICAR General Assembly.

Due to the fast technology development about milk recording and the effective introduction of electronics into milking technology the accuracy test of milk-meters and jars needs to be updated. Many farmers own milk meter models furnishing daily milk recording for daily herd management change. Some of these models do not have ICAR approval to be used for official milk recordings. Many requests had been made in the past to introduce a specific test for milk-meter models to be used only for daily milk recordings. The Sub-Committee agreed that such models must have the same level of minimum bias than the actual test but can partly relax the level of accuracy, being milk recorded each milk yield instead of recording only one daily milk yield per month. The proposal analyzed by the Sub-Committee was to have two types of meters: a first class meters that can be used both for monthly and daily recording and a second class that can be used for only for daily recording. A more detailed proposal will follow, the Sub-Committee agreed by now that the test should be done to the entire system, and not only on the milk-meter. For the developing milking and recording technologies the entire system needs to be tested: identification, sampling, measuring systems and the annexed computer technology must be investigated as a unique combination. The Sub-Committee, for the extreme importance of the arguments, will established a deep discussion to produce a final document to be ready for the next meeting. Next Sub-Committee meeting will be held in 2002 May, in Interlaken (Switzerland) during the biennial ICAR Session.

In the same day the Sub-Committee met representatives of the manufacturers (five manufacturers were represented) to discuss some important topic. The manufacturers were update about final and provisional approved and currently tested devices. They were also invited to visit the Meters and Jars Sub-Committee web space and to furnish ideas to improve it. A. Rosati stated again that the web space is a service for everybody interested in the area of measurement devices related to milk production. Representatives of the manufacturers were also informed that the ICAR Guidelines are under final revision and that will be ready for the meetings that will be held in Interlaken next May. Long discussion raised for the project to test the complete measurement systems instead that only the milk-meters as previously discussed in the Sub-Committee meeting. Manufacturers agreed in general with the proposal and they are looking for examining the final document. An "open" meeting with manufacturers will be held in Interlaken in May 2002. Manufacturers were also invited to actively participate to the 33rd ICAR Session and INTERBULL (Interlaken, Switzerland, May 2002).

Members of the Sub-Committee Meters are: M. Blanchard (France), L. Jepsen (Denmark), H. Jurgens (Germany), S. Mihina (Slovak Republic), P. Miller (USA), D. Nosal (Switzerland) and A. Rosati (Italy, Chairman). Representatives of Test Centers are: P. Billon (France), K. De Koning (the Netherlands), N.P. Madsen (Denmark), D. Reinemann (USA), F. Sangiorgi (Italy).

Meeting of the Beef Recording working group

The meeting of the ICAR Beef Recording Working Group took place in Paris from 21 to 22 May 2001. Fioretti, Grogan, Journaux, Michaux, Pullar, Schild (Chairman) and Szabo participated to the meeting. Bullock and Graser participated via video link.

The introductory chairman's report referred to ICAR's new web site and its use for the working groups. With regard to the next ICAR General Assembly 2002 in Interlaken papers for the Beef Section were requested. Th Chairman described the collaboration between the ICAR Beef Group and the US American Beef Improvement Federation BIF.

Dr. Simianer who was commissioned with the execution of the *International Comparative Analysis and Synthesis of guidelines for beef Recording* has finished the study writing his report. The final document will be published under the ICAR technical series. The proposal for the future development is to develop a new beef guideline covering all aspects of recording. The proposed structure of the new guideline would follow that of Dr Simianer's report. Each of the members of the Beef Working Group accepted responsibility for producing one or two chapters within the guideline to produce a first draft of all chapters by 1st October 2001, and a revised draft after some editing by 1st November 2001.

A draft guideline looking at the real time ultrasound measurement of beef cattle was presented to the working group. When the document has been tidied up, it will be posted on the ICAR web-site to invite other corrections before it is presented to ICAR bodies.

The Working Group did not consider that it should make specific recommendations of weighing devices. In general standards of accuracy and the errors which are acceptable should be defined for weighing scales. It also indicated that the acceptance of girth measurements would be approved and should be included in the guideline but will be treated as computed traits. The issue of weight losses due to loss of gut contents when animals are waiting to be weighed should be addressed.

L. Journaux has revised the questionnaire for the biannual world survey of beef recording and presented it to the Working Group. The revised questionnaire will be presented on the ICAR website as an interactive *html* document to fill in.

Journaux, Grogan, and Pullar reported on an Irish/UK/French international recording project to the working group. ICAR will be represented on the Board of Management. The basic aim of the project is to build prototype software to enable genetic valuation data exchanges using Limousin and Charolais data as a pilot study between Ireland, the UK and France. It was clearly indicated that this project is designed to produce a working methodology which will encourage more exchange of international beef recording information, and through that encourage greater use of ICAR beef recording guidelines in order to harmonize beef recording throughout the world. If the pilot study is successful, it is expected that the software development will be given to ICAR to administer. This has the advantage of making the service independent of any national concern

L. Journaux was volunteered for the post of Vice Chairman to the Beef Working Group

The next meeting will be held in Hungary on next November the 22nd and 23rd.

The ICAR Beef Group is composed of Darrh Bullock (USA), C. Diaz (Spain), M. Fioretti (Italy), B. Fürst-Waltl (Austria), H. Graser (Australia), A. Grogan (Ireland), M. Hansen (Denmark), L. Journaux (France), C. Michaux (Belgium), D. Pullar (United Kingdom), H. J. Schild (Chairman, Germany), F. Szabo (Hungary), J. v.d. Westhuizen (South Africa)

Meeting of the Quality Assurance working group

The meeting of the Quality Assurance working group took place in Paris on May the 20th 2001. Emanuelson, Galesloot, Gastinel, Juga (Chairman), Miglior, Miller and Swalve participated to the meeting. M. Jeffries and A. Rosati participated partially to the meeting as visitors.

Members of the working group had a specific topic to investigate and to report to the group:

- P. Miller: Best practice to recording and what information is needed to describe it.
- P. Galesloot: Calculation of lactation information from different recording schemes
- R. A. Poole: Market demand for quality assurance in recording (summarised by J. Juga)
- J. Klaus: How the new ISO/DIS 9001 could be utilised in quality control of recording and evaluation. Difference respect to old version (summarised by J. Juga)
- P.-L. Gastinel: From recording to evaluation, quality control and critical information of misbehaving data
- B. Van Doormaal: Market demand for quality assurance in evaluation (presented by F. Miglior)
- J. Juga: Validation of statistical models and evaluation system
- U. Emanuelson (& Interbull): Quality assurance of national evaluation results to be used in international evaluation

There was also the presentation of the simulation project by Hermann H. Swalve

The group had a long discussion about the objectives of the working group. It was quite clear from the discussion that the work should be concentrated on quality assurance of recording and evaluation. The quality management was considered too wide and demanding and it was seen as a management tool to run the business. The group did not think that it is up to the ICAR to decide how different organisations run their business, but it is of interest to all ICAR members to document and validate the recording and evaluation procedures. This will increase the reliability of the recording schemes, national evaluation systems and international comparison of breeding values across countries.

The presentations by the group members addressed different areas of recording and evaluation and the need for validation and documentation, because a number of different practices exists already both within and between countries and there is a further need for increased flexibility. The best practice should maximise the profit, accuracy and the satisfaction to members.

The work of this working group overlaps with several other ICAR working groups e.g. meters and jars, milk testing laboratories, lactation calculation and Interbull. The quality assurance working group should work together with the other working groups, respect the recommendations made by the other working groups and try to propose practical guidelines how to validate the results and how to document the existing systems so that it gives a good overview of the practices in the country. The best platforms for the links to the documents are the ICAR and Interbull web pages, which should be fully utilised by the member countries.

Two aspects were considered of special importance for the future plans of the work: a flowchart to describe the recording and evaluation systems and quality checks. The checks are needed to validate identification, test day records, data sampling, data pre-editing and correction, statistical models and evaluation results. An important issue is to decide who does the checking and how the results of these checks will be published. The aim is to increase the transparency of the recording and evaluation results.

The group discussed also the working methods. Although working via e-mail was considered convenient the group meetings were seen very important because the communication is more interactive.

Members of the working group currently are: U. Emanuelson (Sweden), P. Galesloot (the Netherlands), P.-L. Gastinel (France), J. Juga (Chairman, Finland), J. Klaus (Germany), F. Miglior (Canada), P. Miller (USA), R. Poole (Australia), H. H. Swalve (Germany), B. Van Doormal (Canada).

News from the Sheep Milk Recording working group

Since the last biennial Session in Bled (Slovenia), the Working Group on Milk recording of Sheep has focused on formalizing two new methods agreed by the Board: D and E methods.

The D method is a simplified non-official recording based on 2 to 4 recordings per flocks and per year in the aim to get 2 to 3 test-days per ewe in the middle of the lactation. It is recommended to record only one of the daily milkings. The purpose is to implement a within flock ranking (based for example on average test-day) of the ewes to manage replacement and culling. This method D may be useful in two types of situation: it may be applied to commercial flocks out of a well-established nucleus of a pyramidal breeding scheme and this type of simplified milk recording should also be suitable in developing countries in order to provide advise to farmers on feeding, health, breeding (and if possible on genetics). In this situation, it could be the first step before the implementation of an official recording for genetic purposes.

Whatever the situation, D method does not provide ICAR stamp. This method is about to be introduced in the ICAR guidelines (September 2001).

The E method is a very specific method built for breeders whose aim is to keep in the Flock-Book designated ewes from designated parity, which are no longer milked, but suckled by their lambs during all the lactation. The day of the test, the lambs are removed and the 2 milkings of the day are recorded.

A lactation is calculated. This design suits specifically to breeders of Germany and Austria breeding East Friesian ewes in small flocks. The precise modalities of the design are currently studied by the Working Group before its introduction in the ICAR guidelines.

Members of the Working Group are J.M. Astruc (Chairman, France), F. Barillet (France), M. Fioretti (Italy), D. Gabina (Spain), E. Gootwine (Israel), AP. Mavrogenis (Cyprus), F.J. Romberg (Germany), S. Sanna (Italy), and E. Stefanake (Greece).

Request

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