



ICAR Newsletter

January 2007

International Committee
for Animal Recording



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NEW SERIES OF THE ICAR NEWSLETTER

It is my great pleasure to present to our readers the first issue of the new series of the ICAR NEWSLETTER. The purpose of our enhanced newsletter is to improve communications amongst ICAR Members, Associate Members, individuals working on the many committees and our industry partners. Strengthening the feeling of "belonging to the same family" (*"l'esprit de corps"*) and supporting the efforts of working together will be one of objectives of the new series.

The electronic format will become the norm and hard copies will be issued on exceptional basis - such as to announce the forthcoming Biennial Session. The ICAR NEWSLETTER will become an interactive tool available to professionals authorized by ICAR Members and Associate members. This new tool will provide an expanded forum for professional comments and contributions.

Future electronic issues will contain information such as reference to ICAR documents and updated information on new events related to ICAR activities including reports on benchmarking, patenting monitoring, approvals of new identification and recording devices.

It is important to recognize the voluntary work of many professionals involved in the work of Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups (technical bodies) and to pay tribute to their contribution to the work and success of the "family" and of each of its members. The ICAR technical bodies will present summary reports on their current activities as well as the inclusion of journalistic contributions in order to recognize the important contribution of individuals involved in these activities and to highlight their work to our industry. To support recognition of our volunteer members, we will also include interviews with the Chairs of the various groups and recognition of their employers who support their contributions.



Neil Petreny, new ICAR President

Every issue will contain a "member profile" – highlights of our ICAR members and what they do. In this issue, we present the profile of our Canadian Member. We will also take opportunities to recognize our special ICAR partners such as European Association of Animal Production (EAAP), ICAR Test Centers, SLU Uppsala (INTERBULL), etc... And for more closer to home topics, a chapter of the NEWSLETTER will be aimed at an exchange of information and experience amongst Members.

This new format communication tool is designed to maximize the use of technology to provide interactive support of member activities and provide recognition of our member, individuals and industry partners who are working to strengthen our industry at the global level.

I hope that you enjoy our inaugural edition and we welcome your feedback that can be sent at icar@icar.org.

Neil Petreny - President of ICAR

THE 35th ICAR BIENNIAL SESSION AND INTERBULL MEETING

410 participants from 42 countries from all continents attended the 35th ICAR Biennial Session and INTERBULL Meeting held 5-10 June 2006 in Kuopio, Finland. The event was divided in nine sessions dealing with various aspects of animal recording and genetic evaluation. It focused on new strategies in meeting needs of breeders and on application of new technologies in animal recording for improved herd management. The importance of reliable identification systems for the control and management of the production chain was highlighted.



Jarmo Juga, former President of ICAR

The Session was accompanied by satellite workshops on animal identification and on improving animal health by recording and evaluation. ICAR network of reference laboratories held its regular meeting during the Session.

Participants expressed their appreciation for excellent meeting facilities, organization of sessions and social events and for the hospitality offered by the local organizer "ProAgria." At the farewell they expressed a unanimous THANK YOU FINLAND, THANK YOU PROAGRIA!

Proceedings of the Session will be published in EAAP Scientific Series no. 121. The publication will contain all presentations at technical sessions, reports of the ICAR Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces, proceedings of the satellite workshop on animal health and of the meeting of the ICAR reference laboratories. Proceedings of the workshop on animal identification will be published in ICAR Technical Series.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KUOPIO, FINLAND, 7 JUNE 2006

The President's report

Jarmo Juga, President of ICAR (2004-2006), submitted the President Report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan approved at the 34th ICAR Session in 2004. The major part of the Plan was successfully implemented in 2004-2006 period, by previous Presidents and Members of the Board. In concluding his report, he indicated the main future actions in the implementation of the Plan:

- Facilitate the improvements in quality of recording and evaluation services, while increasing the flexibility.
- Sampling and recording on farm.
- Testing of devices.
- Utilise the possibilities of new technologies.
- Extending individual animal recording and genetic evaluation to more traits, breeds and, where possible, more species.
- Task force in DNA testing.
- INTERBEEF.
- Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of recording systems in developing countries
- Reactivating the task force Developing Countries.

The General Assembly unanimously approved President's Report and thanked all persons who participated in ICAR activities and contributed to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

New ICAR Board

The General Assembly unanimously elected new ICAR Board members. The following is the current Board composition:

- Neil Petreny (Canada), President of ICAR.
- Frank Armitage (UK), Vice-President and Treasurer.
- Uffe Lauritsen (Denmark), Vice-President.
- Reinhard Reents (Germany), Secretary*.
- Daniel Abernethy (Australia), Member.
- Pierre Louis Gastinel (France), Member*.
- Ole Klejs Hansen (Denmark), Member*.
- Guido Ongaro (Italy), Member.
- Dainis Rungulis (Latvia), Member.
- Jay Mattison (USA), ICAR Inspector.
- Kaivo Ilves (Estonia), ICAR Inspector*.

Decisions of the General Assembly

New criteria for ICAR membership

In the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the General Assembly approved changes of criteria for membership introducing the principle of the multiple memberships per country, including associate membership for organizations having interest in ICAR work. All members would have the right to participate in the technical work of ICAR, including the development of rules, standards and guidelines. Full members would have the right to vote on the basis of one member one vote. These changes were introduced in the ICAR Statutes.

Benchmarking

The Board initiated benchmarking services for interested member organizations under the technical leadership of the Canadian Member. The report on the first trial has been completed and distributed to participants.



Kaivo Ilves (Estonia) elected in Kuopio as ICAR Inspector



Jay Mattison (USA), re-elected in Kuopio as ICAR Inspector



Daniel Abernethy (Australia), Member of the ICAR Board

*New member of the ICAR Board

Certificate of Quality

It also proposed the establishment of the ICAR Certificate of Quality which would gradually replace the ICAR Special Stamp. The changing profile and requirements of Members, greater emphasis on visible quality assurance building on ICAR's reputation, maintaining ICAR standards and relevance to members' actual activities were the main reasons for the proposed changes. Certificates will be valid for 3 years.

The idea of Certificate of Quality was widely accepted by ICAR Members. The Secretariat has collected applications for auditors. Although Certificate of Quality is not mandatory for Members having the Special Stamp, the first certification should start as soon as possible. The Certificate of Quality will be accorded to Members in acknowledgement of services provided to clients in fields of animal identification, performance recording and genetic evaluation. For more information see www.icar.org (Services --> Certificate of quality).

Patent Sentinel and Action Service (PSAS)

The ICAR Board established the Patent Sentinel and Action Service (PSAS) as an international network for exchange of information on matters related to patenting in the field of animal production.

New Sub-Committee

The Board decided that the Working Group on Milk Testing Laboratories should be changed to a Sub-Committee. It also approved the ICAR Guidelines for the testing of milk analyzers. The Executive Board, at its November meeting, agreed to propose the change of the name to Sub-Committee on Milk Testing so as to reflect more accurately its tasks and terms of reference.

New Task Forces

The Board initiated the establishment of new Task Forces and Working Groups on:

- Parentage recording (Hans Wilmink was nominated Convenor).
- Animal fibre (Marco Antonini was nominated Convenor).
- Milk recording practices (Reinhard Pauw was nominated Convenor).

Awards

The Board has established awards and certificates to acknowledge services and contribution of individual experts to the ICAR objectives. The awards are:

- President's Award.
- Distinguished Service Award.
- Distinguished Service Certificate.
- Acknowledgement of contribution to ICAR objects.

For more details browse the ICAR website (www.icar.org).



*Pierre Louis Gastinel
(France), new Member of
the ICAR Board*

NEW ICAR MEMBERS

The General Assembly in Kuopio welcomed "Mejoramiento Lechero" from Uruguay and "Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo" from Peru as new members of the association and approved the change in the Swedish membership which will be now on the Swedish Dairy Association.

In the period June - October 2006, the ICAR Secretariat received requests of information for membership from Bolivia (Protección de Medio Ambiente, Tarija, Yunchara District); Moldova (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries); Belarus (Ministry of Agriculture and Food); Israel (the manufacturer SAE Afikim); Ukraine (Agency for Animal Identification and Registration, and JSC Kiev Polygraphic Factory Zorya); Brazil (EMBRAPA Rio Grande do Sul); and the United Kingdom (Quality Milk Management Service, Somerset and SUM-IT, Oxon).

The signed applications received in time have been accepted by the Executive Board in November 2006 and forwarded to the ICAR Board for information. The new membership will become effective in 2007 subject to the payment of the fee and the ratification by the General Assembly to be held on 31 May 2007.

The French member, France Contrôle Laitier, informed the Secretariat about changes in their structure and that the new member will be now France Génétique Elevage. The Secretariat also received an application from the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers to replace the actual Polish member, the National Animal Breeding Centre, from June 2007. These changes will be placed on the agenda of the next General Assembly for final approval.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ICAR STATUTES

The amended ICAR Statutes, approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Kuopio, Finland, on 9 June 2006, defined the mission of ICAR in developing standards, rules and guidelines, established criteria for ICAR membership and defined rights and duties of Members and Associate Members.

The following are the most important amendments.

Article 3 - ICAR rules, standards and guidelines

- 3.1 ICAR develops and establishes standards to define criteria to be applied consistently in the provision of recording and evaluation services, in the manufacture and supply of animal identification, performance recording and analytical devices and in testing of such and in analysis of animal products for recording and evaluation purposes.
- 3.2 ICAR rules define basic principles of animal identification, registration of parentage, performance recording and genetic evaluation.
- 3.3 On the basis of sound scientific evidence, the ICAR guidelines recommend procedures and methods of animal identification, registration of parentage, performance recording and genetic evaluation.

Article 6 - Membership

- 6.1 Membership, with full rights and privileges, shall be open to organisations involved in recording and /or evaluation related activities, accepting the ICAR Statutes and the International Agreement of Recording Practices.
- 6.2 Associate membership may be granted to other organisations wishing to support ICAR's objectives. Associate Members will not be allowed to vote.

Article 7 - Rights and duties of Members and Associate Members

- 7.1 Each member is eligible to participate in the formulation of rules, standards and guidelines for purposes of identifying animals, the registration of their parentage, recording their performance and evaluating their genetics.
- 7.2 Each member involved in animal recording and evaluation activities has the duty to inform the ICAR Board on standards and methods applied in animal identification, registration of parentage, performance recording and genetic evaluation.
- 7.3 Members shall pay membership fees and are expected to be in good standing with regards to payment of their dues.

For more details browse the ICAR website (www.icar.org).

ICAR BY-LAWS

In accordance with the Statutes, the ICAR Board established the By-laws, which were approved by the General Assembly, to regulate matters concerning the internal management of ICAR. The By-laws regulate rules of procedure of the ICAR governing bodies, terms of references of members of the Executive Board (Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer) and Terms of Reference of the ICAR Sub-Committees. They also define procedure for development and approval of ICAR Rules, Standards and Guidelines. For more details see www.icar.org.

AWARDS IN 2006

At the General Assembly, the President of ICAR presented the "President's Award" and the "Distinguished Service Award" to:

President's Award to Olivier Leray

Mr. Olivier Leray, Chairman of the Working Group on Milk Analysis Laboratories, contributed to an increase in quality of ICAR services to its Members and to an increase in technical level of the work of milk analysis laboratories participating in ICAR activities.



Olivier Leray, awarded in Kuopio with the President's Award

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was delivered to:

- Jean-Claude Mocquot, the outgoing member of the Board and the outgoing Chairman of the Steering Committee of INTERBULL.
- Reinhard Pauw, the outgoing member of the Board and the outgoing Chairman of the Identification Sub-Committee.
- Erik Rehben, the outgoing Treasurer of ICAR;
- Jean Stoll, the outgoing Inspector of ICAR.
- At the farewell dinner of the 35th ICAR Biennial Session Neil Petreny, the newly elected President of ICAR, delivered to Jarmo Juga, the outgoing president, the Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to the ICAR work.



Reinhard Pauw, awarded with the



Jean-Claude Mocquot, awarded with the



Erik Rehben, awarded with the Distinguished Service Award

ICAR SPECIAL STAMP

In 2006 the ICAR Board received four applications for the right to use the ICAR Special Stamp. On the basis of reports of the Special Commissions which examined the work of Members, the ICAR Board granted the right to use of the ICAR Special Stamp to:

- The Estonian Animal Recording Center, Estonia.
- The National Animal Breeding Center, Poland.

Reports of the Special Commission on the work of other two applicants will be examined by the Board in 2007.

Frank Armitage, Vice President, and Andrea Rosati, Secretary General, in November 2006 visited ICAR Members in South Africa - Animal Improvement Institute and South African Stud Book and Livestock Improvement Association. They were acquainted with animal recording and genetic evaluation in South Africa in connection with the application of Animal Improvement Institute for the right to use the ICAR Special Stamp.

The use of the Special Stamp has been extended to 01 June 2009 to Members having the right to use it. Applications for the Special Stamp received before the Kuopio sessions of the General Assembly will be treated under the existing rules, while new applications will be treated as requests for the ICAR Certificate of Quality.



Jean Stoll, awarded with the Distinguished Service Award

NEWS FROM ICAR SUB-COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS

Animal Identification Sub-Committee (Ole-Klejs Hansen, Chairman)

Unique, unequivocal identification is a basic requirement for all activities where individual animal recognition is necessary, e.g. farm management, animal recording, animal health, diseases eradication/prevention, beef labelling, purpose of trade, control of subsidies etc. The necessity of functioning identification and registration (I&R) systems especially in disease prevention has become obvious during the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in some EU member states as well as during the past BSE crisis. Countries all over the world have started to introduce or extend national I&R programs. This leads to an increasing need for reliable information on the quality of ID-devices available on the market.

In the past two years, the most important part of the Sub-Committee's (SC) work consisted of refining the existing and setting new guidelines for the testing of identification devices regarding their conformity with the current standards of the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) and their performance in the field. Testing activities are based on several protocols established by the SC together with ISO. In the field of Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) 135 transponders of different types have been successfully tested since the beginning of the procedure in 1995 and may officially be used in animal identification.

Activities in 2006 exceeded those in previous years: by the end of the year nearly 35 transponders were tested. The idea of undertaking worldwide standardised performance test of RFID devices was supported by ICAR Members from USA and Canada, as well as by representatives of EU and ISO. Performance test of conventional ear-tags (one reference and 5 test tags) would be initiated in 2006. The Sub-Committee is aware of the need to obtain results valid for various climatic zones.

In conjunction with representatives of the European Commission an agreement was reached regarding the use of ICAR procedure for testing of ID devices for sheep and goats. The formal agreement making ICAR the Registration Authority of ISO for animal identification devices conforming to standards ISO 11784 and 11785 was adopted. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee initiated negotiations on the establishment of a test centre in North America.

International Standardisation Organization (ISO) has nominated ICAR to serve as the Registration Authority

The ISO/TC 23 *Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry* approved the recommendation to nominate the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) to serve as the Registration Authority for ISO 11784 Radio frequency identification of animals – code structure and ISO 11785 Radio frequency identification of animals – Technical concept, effective of 24 November 2006.

The agreement between ISO and ICAR (approved by the ISO TC 23 and the Executive Board of ICAR) devolves the responsibility to ICAR to establish internal rules and protocols for granting codes and carrying out conformance tests, to inform customers on these rules, to put up the list of testing laboratories, and to withdraw manufacturer and product codes according to contracts with customers and the internal rules. ICAR will ensure that manufacturers

submitting new products for testing and approval sign and observe the code of conduct in accordance with ISO regulations (Annex B2, Part 1: ISO 11784/11785). It is also obliged to be vigilant that codes are not misused and to study possible legal actions if any such misuse is not discontinued, in coordination with ISO and the affected manufacturers.

The agreement also regulates the SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l. procedures for testing of devices and for any other operation within the ICAR mandate, such as receipt of requests for testing, funds to cover costs of testing, selection of test centre, delivery of results and payment of services.

For more details and the complete list of the approved devices, please browse the webpage at: www.icar.org/pages/manufacturer_codes.htm.

[INTERBULL Sub-Committee \(R. Reents, Chairman\)](#)

The INTERBULL Steering Committee decided to expand the genetic evaluation service to include female fertility, launch a new project on international beef evaluation and introduce new timing for evaluations. It also adopted the new name of the Ayshire breed: Red Dairy Cattle breed. INTERBULL has initiated the study on international evaluations for milking speed and temperament.

For more details see INTERBULLETIN (issue August 2006) and www.interbull.slu.se

[Milk Testing Laboratories Sub-Committee \(O. Leray, Chairman\)](#)

The Executive Board, noting that Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee were broader than its name, agreed to propose to the ICAR Board to re-name it Milk Analysis Sub-Committee.

It recommended the nomination of Mr. Roberto Castañeda from Argentina as a new member of the Sub-Committee. It supported the view of the Chairman regarding the need to enlarge the Sub-Committee membership to include professionals from other continents.

The work programme of the Sub-Committee approved at the Kuopio meeting included production of guidelines for comparison between countries, for centralized calibration and for on-farm analytical devices. The later issue would require the creation of a horizontal group composed of representatives from other Sub-Committees and working groups (Recording Devices, milk recording in sheep, goats, buffalo). An on-line questionnaire for survey of laboratory situation within ICAR would be implemented similar to that for sheep milk recording. The web site would be updated and restructured for better readability. Data base and internet facilities would be developed to host and present ICAR Reference Laboratory Network on the web in relation/connection with national laboratory levels. A workshop on analytical reference methods in the form of a training course for technical managers would be organised by MUVA (Kempten, Germany) in 2007. The Sub-Committee will meet in Munich, Germany during the ISO/IDF Analytical Week (21-25 May 2007) and in Niagara Falls, USA, in 2008. The ICAR Reference Laboratory Network will also meet during the biennial Session in Niagara Falls in 2008, when a training course (workshop) on milk analysis reference methods would be organized for technical managers.

Recording Devices Sub-Committee (U. Lauritsen, Chairman)

Since the Kuopio meeting, two new members joined the Sub-Committee: Mario Capasso from Italy and Vladimir Tancin from the Czech Republic.

The Sub-Committee plans to address the issue of testing and approval of the “herd management milkmeters” having over 2% error and of the impact of bigger error on the whole system. The Sub-Committee find the question being related to a number of related issues during recording, such as animal ID, correct sampling, logistic of the sample on farm as well as in the lab. Looking on only the level of error on meter accuracy could be a too narrow view. A paper would be prepared in consultation with the Task Force on Milk Recording Practices (R. Pauw).

Procedures for testing milk meters for dairy sheep would be developed in cooperation with Working Group on sheep recording.

The Sub-Committee received complaints from farmers regarding unauthorized and non-tested changes in some approved milk meters. The Executive Board supported the view of the Sub-Committee that the text of the approval should include provisions that any change and upgrading must be communicated to the Sub-Committee which would decide on necessary actions, including re-testing of devices. A close look on withdrawal of the approval in case of non-compliance with ICAR rules should also be included.

The Sub-Committee would also take up the issue of compatibility of samplers with various meters and the need to test the compatibility.

For more details and the complete list of the approved recording devices, please browse the webpages at: www.icar.org/pages/Sub_Committees/sc_recording_devices_approved_jars.htm and at www.icar.org/pages/Sub_Committees/sc_recording_devices_approved_milkimeters.htm

Newly approved recording devices

In June 2006 the ICAR Board approved the following milk recording devices:

- Autosampling System for VMS - Manufacturer DeLaval
- Electronic Milk Meter - Manufacturer Tru-Test
- Free Flow Meter Wide (MM25W) - Manufacturer SCR Engineers Ltd. sold by DeLaval

Provisional approval has been issued for the following devices:

- SCR FF SG - Manufacturer SCR Engineers Ltd. - Species: Only Goat
- Dematron 70 - Manufacturer Westfalia
- Speedsampler - Manufacturer Waikato
- Afifree - Manufacturer SAE Afikim - Species: Only Goat.

A SURVEY ON MILK RECORDING STRATEGIES IN DAIRY CATTLE

Results from the survey have provided an update description of milk recording worldwide. More and more farms are investing in milk recording systems with electronic meters or robotic systems which allow for storage and transmission of possibly more accurate data to dairy herd improvement (DHI) organizations. Many countries still do not offer the convenience and

flexibility of am/pm or unsupervised milk recording, thus, limiting the range of services (and prices) offered to DHI clients. Each DHI organization should consider the potential future benefits of increasing the flexibility of their milk recording services, and preparing for future challenges such as reductions in public funding and use of in-line analysis systems at farm level. Each of these challenges will create a potential decrease in DHI membership base.

The detailed reports on 2004-2006 activities of the Sub-Committees and Working Groups can be found in the Proceedings of the Kuopio Session, published in the EAAP Scientific Series no. 121.

NEW ACTIVITIES OF ICAR

Pig recording

ICAR Strategic plan has set the extending of animal recording and genetic evaluation to more traits, breeds and where possible, more species. The Executive Board of ICAR, on the basis of a survey on interests and needs of Members for ICAR work in the field of pig recording, shall propose to the Board the establishment of the Pig Recording Task Force. Prof. Milena Kovac from the University of Ljubljana, the author of the survey, has been asked to prepare a draft terms of reference of the new task force and to suggest names of potential members.

Benchmarking

ICAR has introduced a new service to support its members: the Benchmarking Service. It lets members measure their performance against other herd recording organisations. Users of the Service receive a personalised benchmark score card comparing their organisation's performance to the performance of other organisations in more than 50 different operational areas.

A total of 18 agencies, representing 10 different countries, participated in the 2005 ICAR Benchmark Service. Organisations that participated in the first run have confirmed its value for managers of who wish to improve the performance of their business operations. Among 83 fields investigated in benchmarking of particular interest were nature of customer demographics, type of services, speed and quality of services, field operations, milk laboratories, data processing, advisory services and financial matters (costs recovery ratio, cost and revenue per customer, cost of governance, overheads, service costs).

The first experience has shown that there was a strong link between benefits of benchmarking and efforts of ICAR Members to improve quality of services to their clients. In this respect, results of benchmarking will have a great bearing on other services, such as Certificate of Quality.

How do you compare?
Introducing herd recording Benchmark Services

ICAR is presenting the new management tool that let you measure performance against other herd recording organizations

You will receive

A personalised benchmark score card comparing your organization's performance to the performance of other organizations in more than 50 different operational areas such as:

- How do your overhead costs compare?
- How much time does your staff spend testing each animal?
- How quickly do you get information back to customers?
- How much time do you spend training staff each year?
- How do your revenues and fees compare to others?
- How do you compare to other agencies in your country? (minimum 5 agencies required within one country)

ICAR's new Benchmark Service will be of special interest to dairy herd recording agency managers and individuals who wish to improve the performance of their business operations. The Benchmark Service is intended as a management tool for herd recording service organizations to assist them in the enhancement of services and operations for their members. All work is conducted by qualified statisticians and all information is confidential.

How do you get your Benchmark Report?

Contact Elena Coude at ICAR (elena@icar.org) to request an input form.

For further information please contact Elena Coude at elena@icar.org, or visit www.icar.org

ICAR • Working to meet the needs of our members

ENGLISH

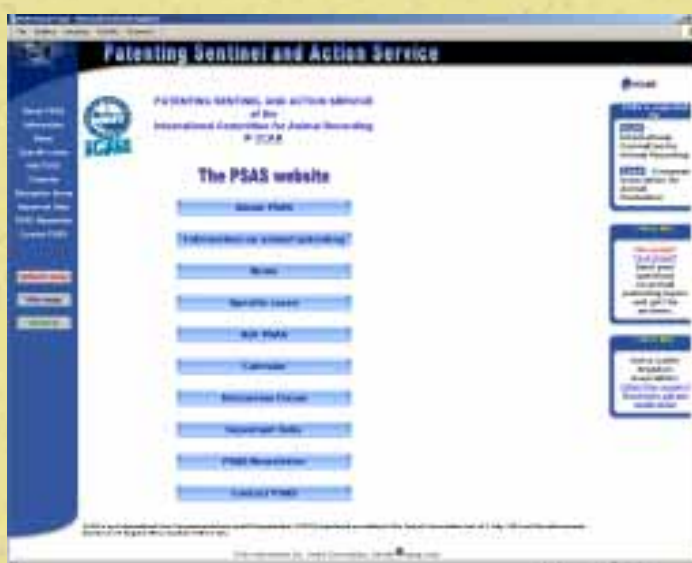
New call with individual invitation was sent in June 2006. The regular fees for each full report by sector (eg. dairy, sheep, etc.) are: 250 Euro, plus 50 Euro for agencies with more than 250 000 cows.

Non-members shall pay an additional 50 Euro surcharge over regular rates. Members are considered to include those agencies that come from countries that are ICAR members with current fees and are affiliated with the principle ICAR member. For more information contact Mrs. Elena Couto (elena@icar.org) or visit the website at: www.icar.org.

Patent Sentinel and Action Service (PSAS)

The missions of the ICAR Patenting Sentinel and Action Service (PSAS) are to:

- constantly update its members on patenting application legislation in the animal sector, so as to lead to a deeper knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of this issue;
- monitor specific patent applications worldwide, which are of most interest to its members;
- possibly take action in a rapid and effective way in relation to specific patenting applications.



The Service has become operational in June 2006. It has 20 members from Africa, Europe, Oceania and South America. A web site (www.psas-web.net) managed by the ICAR

Secretariat has been established as an international network for exchange of information on issues related to patenting in animal industry. A leaflet containing information on the Service was prepared and distributed on various occasions, including the EAAP Annual Meeting. Mrs. Erin Ogden, a patent lawyer from USA, has been appointed as a legal advisor.

The Service currently functions as an open source. However, there are views suggesting that after a certain period of time year it should limit its services to members.

PROFILES OF ICAR MEMBERS

Canada - CanWest DHI Overview

CanWest DHI (Dairy Herd Improvement) is one of three agencies that currently provide herd recording services to the 16 500 dairy farmers in Canada – of which about 12 000 are enrolled on herd recording programs. CanWest DHI is dairy producer owned and provides services directly to 5 000 dairy farms in the central and western region of Canada, representing 70% participation. CanWest DHI is the result of the merger of five different dairy farmer operated organizations during the past decade - consolidation driven by the withdrawal of government support for herd recording activities in Canada.

Operating with three laboratories and staff spread across 3 different time zones, CanWest DHI works closely with their Canadian DHI partners, who together share the ownership and operation of a single national dairy record processing center. The national record processing partnership supports communications and cooperative efforts across the country and provides cost effectiveness for each of the three partners.

CanWest DHI services provided to dairy farmers are fully flexible and designed by the customers to meet their particular farm objectives and budget. We currently have nearly 60 different service offerings being used by customers. Our field technicians are responsible for ensuring that the customers receive the appropriate number of tests that they have ordered.

Herd size ranges from 10 to 1 000 cows per herd, with an average of 70 cows in the regions serviced. As a result, dairy herd management software sales and support is a growing part of our regular business. Currently 20% of the 400 000 cows serviced are managed by DHI herd management software at the farm. In addition, we have recently expanded milk sample testing services to include disease diagnostic services in order to further enhance the profitability of our members and the usefulness of our services.

NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2007)

The 2007 Session of the General Assembly will be held in Verona, Italy on 31 May 2007. In the past, sessions of General Assembly held in odd years had exclusively administrative character and dealt mainly with issues related to the management of the association, such as approval of the statement of accounts and budget, Treasurer's report, election of Board members. The Board, considering that the gathering of top managers of ICAR Members could be also an opportunity for exchange of experience among them, decided to organize a workshop on issues related to management animal of recording. The 2007 General Assembly will be accompanied by a workshop on 31 May and 01 June. Representatives of ICAR Members delegated to attend the General Assembly and other high level professionals are invited to attend. For more information see www.icar.org.

Presentations by Manufacturers

Manufacturers will be invited to present their new products to delegates of Members attending the General Assembly on 31 May 2006, in Verona, Italy. The presentation will take place at 10.30 hours.

Provisional Programme of the workshop for high level professionals 31 May- 01 June 2006

| Date /time | 30 th May | 31 st May | 1 st June |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| A.M. h. 8.30-13.00 | Meeting of the Board | ICAR General Assembly and presentations of manufacturers | Session 2 Workshop: Managing competition Chair: Frank Armitage |
| P. M. h. 14.30-18.30 | Meeting of the Board with Chair-persons of Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups | Session 1 Workshop: Benchmarking Chair: Reinhard Reents | Session 3 Workshop: Training technicians—technology on the farm Questions and Panel Chair: Uffe Lauritsen |

Next meeting of the Board

The Board will meet at 08.30 hours on 30 May 2007 in Verona, Italy. The meeting of the Board and Chairpersons of Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups will be held on 30 May 2007 at 14.30 hours.

NEXT BIENNIAL 36th SESSION (2008)

At the 35th ICAR Session held in Kuopio, Jay Mattison (USA) invited participants to attend the 36th ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting to be held 16-24 June 2008 in Niagara Falls (USA). The US Dairy Industry and National DHI would host the session. Post-session seminars, short training courses and tours will also be organized.

More details will be available as soon as possible at: www.icar.org



Pictures of Niagara Falls (USA), location of the next 36th ICAR Session.

“CONFIDENTIAL” MESSAGE FROM FRANK ARMITAGE

For my overseas recipients, the man to whom I am talking is HRH Prince Philip, the man between us is Jan van Geest from the Netherlands. The room in which we were, the Centre Room, is the one from which the Royal Party come out onto the balcony at Buckingham Palace and wave to the crowds. We were told in no uncertain manner that we were not to open the windows or curtains.



The ICAR Vice-President and Treasurer, Frank Armitage (left), visiting with Prince Philip of Edinburgh (right)

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