



ICAR Newsletter

July 2009

International Committee
for Animal Recording



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first part of 2009 seems to be one of the busiest periods in ICAR's long history: in the period January-May all our Sub-Committees held their meetings, Sub-Committee Interbull held an important workshop and the Executive Board met, both in Uppsala (Sweden) in January. In mid-May over 150 experts, managers of recording organizations and delegates from our Members met in Porec, Croatia, to participate in a number of important activities:

- Task Force Developing Countries held a two days consultation on new and updated guidelines for animal identification and recording in low to medium input systems.
- Animal Recording Data Task Force held a meeting on the state of the art in animal data exchange among ICAR members, coordination with other organizations and on breed standards.
- ICAR Board held its regular meeting and a joint meeting with Chairpersons of Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces.
- The ICAR General Assembly held its regular session.
- Hundred and fifty participants from 38 countries participated at the workshop on management of new technologies in animal recording and evaluation.

In this issue of the ICAR Newsletter you will find information on major events and developments in our Association and in the fields related to the work of our Members.

ICAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegates representing 62 ICAR Members attended the session of the General Assembly held in Porec, Croatia, on 12 May 2009. The Assembly received the President's and Secretary General's Reports, the Inspector's Report, the 2008 Year End Financial Statement and 2010 Budget. A revised process for changes to the Guidelines was presented which would establish a 60 day period for comments and the ICAR strategic objectives highlighted.

ICAR PROMPTLY REACTED TO TWO NEW CHALLENGES (From the President's Report to the General Assembly)

Rapid developments in on farm analysis technologies and the first steps in the application of genomics in evaluation of breeding values represented challenges which in the long run could have a decisive impact on the profile and future of our association. ICAR Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis and INTERBULL Sub-Committee reacted promptly: the first has produced the principles of rules, standards and guidelines for on-farm milk analysis and the second has elaborated policy for the use of genomic information in evaluation of breeding values both at national and international levels. Documents related to these issues have been approved by the ICAR Board and made available to Members through letters and the ICAR and INTERBULL web sites.

SERVICES OFFERED TO ICAR MEMBERS (From Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly)

During the period between the two sessions of the General Assembly, the ICAR Secretariat serviced governing and technical bodies, took care of legal issues, managed financial resources and provided technical support to ICAR special programs in benchmarking, Certificate of Quality and Patenting Sentinel and Action service. Activities in the field of dissemination of information included publication of Proceedings of the Niagara Falls Biennial Session, Newsletter and the management and updating of the ICAR web site (some 130 000 visits in ten months). The future efforts of the Secretariat in the attainment of the ICAR Strategic Objectives will be oriented towards increase in ICAR membership on other continents, improvements

in auditing for the Certificate of Quality, monitoring and follow up of technical developments and improving financial and fiscal discipline.

ICAR Goals and Objectives

The General Assembly confirmed the importance of the approved planning process, which ensures keeping pace of programs and activities of ICAR with changes in the environment in which our Members operate. The Board highlighted the following targets:

- Grow membership to 100 by 2012.
- Grow number of countries represented in ICAR to 60 by 2012.
- Grow the number of active Certificate of Quality to 30 organizations by 2012.
- Introduce Interbeef services by 2011.

New ICAR Members

The ICAR General Assembly welcomed *HOLSTEIN-UK, the Animal Breeding Center and Improvement of Animal Production from Iran, Cooperativa Regional de Inseminacion (COPRINSEM) from Chili and Associação para o Apoio à Bovinicultura Leiteira do Norte (ANABLE) from Portugal* as new ICAR members. Royal Tag and SEIDIC from Switzerland were welcomed as Associate Members.



Jorge Lama, representative of Cooprinsem, new ICAR Member from Chile.

The 37th Biennial Session, Riga, Latvia, 31 May - 4 June 2010

The General Assembly warmly accepted the kind invitation of the Latvian State Domestic Animal Pedegree and Data Processing Centre to host the 37th ICAR Biennial Session. It also welcomed information submitted by the Latvian delegation: preparations for the 37th Biennial Session are well advanced and actions so far completed indicate that it would be another successful event. The local Organizing Committee booked the Riga Conference Centre and hotel as a venue of the session, and, in cooperation with the ICAR Executive Board, started to prepare themes and program of the session.



Suzanne Harding, representative of Holstein UK, new ICAR Member from United Kingdom.

GUIDELINES FOR ON-FARM MILK ANALYSIS

In the recent past milk recording analysis was performed in specialized milk testing laboratories that also carried out quality control and assurance in order to provide confidence in analytical results. During the last decade, many farms have been equipped with portable analytical modules for direct in-line/on-flow analysis. These devices can be either transported or built in the milking system on the farm. Data obtained are primarily used for milk production management on the farm. However, collected data are also expected to be exported and used for collective purposes, and, therefore, there is the need for definition of acceptable limits for precision and accuracy of devices, conditions for evaluation and ICAR approval and compatibility with the existing systems of animal identification, data recording, lactation calculation and milking machine parameters.

The ICAR Board at its meeting of 11 May 2009 approved the principles and elements for new guidelines and ICAR rules and standards for on-farm milk analysis developed by the ICAR Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis and its working party on on-farm milk analysis during the 2007-2009 period. The Board requested the Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis to complete the work so that the final text could be submitted to the members for the approval, using the new approved norm or waiting for the 2010 General Assembly.

ICAR CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

- Five Certificate of quality were delivered during General Assembly held in Porec. Neil Petreny, President of ICAR, during the ICAR General Assembly delivered the Certificate of Quality to representatives of Quality Milk Management Services Ltd (UK), Association of ProAgria Centers (Finland), Czech Moravian Breeders (Czech Republic) and the Breeding Service of the Slovak Republic (Slovak Republic).
- New applications for the Certificate
Eight ICAR Members applied for the Certificate of Quality.
 - Associazione Italiana Allevatori (Italy).
 - France Genetique Elevage (France).
 - Deutscher Verband fuer Leistungs- und Qualitaetspreufungen (Germany).
 - Association of Swiss Cattle Breeders (Switzerland).
 - Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).
 - Estonian Animal Recording Centre (Estonia).
 - Fereinigte Infromationssysteme Terhaltung w.V. (Germany).
 - State Agency Agriculture Data (Latvia)
 - Scottish Agricultural College (UK).
 - Cattle information Services (UK).
 - National Animal Breeding Centre (Poland).
 - Convis (Luxembourg).



N. Petreny granting J. Kyntäjää (ProAgria), P. Bucek (Czech Moravian Breeders Corporation, Inc.) and Š. Ryba (The Breeding Services of the Slovak Republic) with the ICAR Certificate of Quality.



Frank Armitage (on the right) presenting the Certificate of Quality to "Quality Milk Management Services Ltd." represented by Barbara Payne (on the left) and Andrew Bradley (in the middle).



Bryan Wickham receiving the President's Award

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

At the official dinner hosted by the Croatian Agricultural Agency, Neil Petreny took great pleasure in presenting to Bryan Wickham from Irish Cattle Breeders Federation the President's Award for his valuable contribution to the attainment of the ICAR objectives during his professional career. As an organizer of the 30th Biennial Session held in Rotorua, New Zealand, Chairman of the ICAR Sub-Committee INTERBULL, Vice-President of ICAR and chairman of the Task Force INTERBEEF he greatly influenced the growth of ICAR from small regional association to a global one with a mandate which covers recording and evaluation in the major part of animal industry.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Drago Kompan (University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Slovenia), former Chairman of the Working Group on Goat Milk Recording and Japie van der Westhuizen (Livestock Business Division ARC, South Africa), former Chairman of the Working Group on Beef Recording, received the ICAR Distinguished Service Award for their contribution to ICAR during their tenure of office.



N. Petreny giving to D. Kompan the ICAR Distinguished Service Award

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CERTIFICATE

Peter Bailey (Biosecurity Victoria, DPI-GPO, Australia), former member of the Identification Sub-Committee, and Dorota Krencik (National Animal Breeding Centre, Poland), former member of the Interbull Steering Committee, received the ICAR Distinguished Service Certificate for their contribution to ICAR during their tenure of office.

MORE BENEFITS TO ICAR MEMBERS

In Porec it was agreed to make available for free to the ICAR members the Statistical Analysis software used for testing of the new recording devices. Copy of the software can be requested to the Secretariat

ICAR WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT OF NEW RECORDING AND EVALUATION TECHNOLOGIES - POREC, CROATIA, 12-13 MAY 2009

The second workshop (the first was held in 2007 in Verona, Italy) for managers of recording and evaluation activities for the ICAR Member organizations attracted hundred fifty participants from thirty-eight countries. There were twenty-three presentations grouped in six thematic areas:

- Recording and logistics - Vials, cow ID and practical solutions.
- Impact of herd management/genomics on herd recording and selection programs.
- New services based on new technical and biological developments
- Traceability – Electronic system applications.
- Changes in Herd Recording business structures: Real experiences.
- Benchmarking, Patent Monitoring and Certificate of Quality.



N. Petreny awarding D. Krencik with the ICAR Distinguished Service Certificate

In addition, two manufacturers: FINZYMES and SAE AFIKIM presented their new products, which offer large possibilities for improved herd management and health control. Lively discussions and a number of questions addressed to speakers followed each presentation. Social events – official dinner offered by the host - Croatian Agricultural Agency (the ICAR Member from Croatia) and the field trip contributed to better contacts among participants and informal exchange of views and experiences. Forty experts and staff members from our Croatian Member attended the workshop as a part of their in-service training. The field trip organized on 14 May included visits to two conservation farms of local breeds of sheep (Istarska Pramenka) and cattle (Isrian Grey Cattle) as well as to a small commercial dairy farm.

The Croatian Ministry of Agriculture as a general sponsor of the workshop was represented by Mr. Stjepan Miholcevic, State Secretary, who welcomed participants on behalf of the Ministry. FINZYMES from Finland also sponsored the workshop.

CROATIAN AGRICULTURAL AGENCY

The Croatian Agricultural Agency – the host of the 2009 ICAR General Assembly and the organizer of the workshops for managers of recording organizations- plays an important role in the Croatian agriculture. In the livestock sector, the Agency carries out animal identification, recording and breeding value estimation, assists breeders' associations in herd-book keeping, supports trade in genetic material, controls the quality of products, and, among a number of other tasks, takes care of endangered breeds and biodiversity of farm animals.

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