



ICAR Newsletter

June 2012

**International Committee
for Animal Recording**



**Via G. Tomassetti 3, 1/A
00161 Rome, Italy**

Content

ICAR Newsletter June 2012

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
38th ICAR BIENNIAL SESSION	3
High participation and support of manufacturers	4
Some messages from technical sessions.....	4
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.....	5
New ICAR Guidelines.....	5
New ICAR Members.....	5
Certificate of Quality	6
Awards.....	6
Frank Armitage received President's Award	7
NEW ICAR STATUTES	7
Uffe Lauritsen re-elected President of ICAR.....	7
Christian Baumgartner new Chairman of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee	7
Wim van Haeringen new chairman of the Genetic Analysis Working Group	8
Enrico Santus and Juraj Handrak members of the INTERBULL Steering Committee.....	8
FROM SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS ...	8
JOINT WORKSHOP OF ICAR AND WORLD BREED FEDERATIONS	8
SECRETARIAT'S CONTACTS.....	8

Contact info:
ICAR Secretariat
Via Giuseppe Tomassetti 3, 1/A
00161 Rome, Italy
E-mail: icar@icar.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 38th ICAR Biennial session in Cork, Ireland, will be remembered as the largest event organized by ICAR, and shows the importance of our work to the animal recording world.. This Session could be seen also as kind of a milestone marking the crucial moment in strategic orientation of ICAR as a global organization. 154 reports, technical papers and posters certainly contributed to give an efficient response to new challenges imposed by new technologies in animal recording and evaluation, growing importance of animal industry in South America and Asia and new requirements both from high-tech and traditional production systems. As I mentioned in concluding my report to the General Assembly, the past year has been one of change and planning for the future, involving all parts of our organization and has demonstrated, yet again, the skills and enthusiasm of our members at all levels. We will face challenges in the coming years and we must be ready A special thank is given to the local organizing committee, to the Irish Cattle Breeders Federation and their manager, Brian Wickham, for the incredible good job done. Their efficiency and professionalism will be used in the future as a good example to follow for organizing ICAR workshops.

38th ICAR BIENNIAL SESSION

The 38th ICAR Session held in Cork, Ireland from 28 May to 1 June 2012 was attended by over 530 participants from 56 countries. The Session focussed on the role of animal identification, recording and evaluation in contributing to profitable animal farming, on the use of recent technologies



A picture taken during the works of the 38th ICAR Session held in Cork, Ireland

on international cooperation in these fields. Particular attention was paid to the use and impact of SNP techniques in breeding and evaluation of dairy cattle and in parentage verification. The session was structured in four plenary and 20 technical sessions and workshops and meetings of ICAR governing and technical bodies. The Session included General Assembly, Extraordinary General Assembly, two meetings of the ICAR Board, one meeting of the Board and Chairpersons of Sub-Committees and Working Groups and meetings of Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

The program of the Session included exhibition of identification and recording devices and systems, several technical tours and visits to farms, a program for accompanying persons and social events.

ICAR Secretariat is proud to advise that all technical papers and presentations submitted at the Session are available at the ICAR web site (www.icar.org/Cork_2012).

High participation and support of manufacturers

Participants had the chance to visit the exhibition hall where a relatively large number of manufacturers of identification and recording devices presented their products. Some of them sponsored part of events and meals for participants. Their support was greatly appreciated by participants and by hosts.

Some messages from technical sessions

....as genotyping becomes cheaper, we might see genotyping of even commercial cows become normal practice. This information can be used to:

- 1) identify parentage with certainty;
- 2) generate sophisticated mating plans that help to optimise genetic gain and avoid inbreeding (at the genomic rather than pedigree level);
- 3) select replacements or candidates to sell;
- 4) avoid genetic defects and
- 5) select for difficult to measure traits such as feed conversion efficiency or methane emissions. (from Abstract by Jennie Pryce - Genomics – what does the future hold?).

Also from the same author in “Genotyping dairy females can improve the reliability of genomic selection and provide farmers with new management tools”Genotyping females can

- 1) improve the reliability of genomic selection (of both bulls and heifers) by increasing the number of animals in the reference population, provided some of the females eventually get records through herd recording;
- 2) assist in the identification of elite females;
- 3) identify the best heifers to become herd replacements;
- 4) provide better prediction of the true value of an animal's genetics, that may correlate to sale price;
- 5) achieve certainty of parentage of individual cows;
- 6) avoid inbreeding through the use of genomic assisted mating plans, where relationships between animals are quantified at the genomic level and

- 7) avoid genetic defects that could arise from mating cows to bulls that are known carriers of genetic diseases that are the result of a single lethal mutation. (from Abstract by Jennie Pryce -)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ICAR General Assembly held on 30 May 2012 received reports submitted by President, Secretary General and ICAR Inspectors, end year financial statement for 2011 and the budget for 2013. It elected Daniel Abernethy, Clara Diaz and Marco Winters members of the ICAR Board for a second term of office and approved the new ICAR Guidelines.

New ICAR Guidelines

The General Assembly approved new ICAR Guidelines prepared by ICAR Sub-Committees and Working Groups and endorsed by the Board. New Guidelines were presented by Martin Burke, Christa Egger-Danner, Suzanne Harding, Kaivo Ilves, Laurent Journeaux, Olivier Leray, Erik Rehben, Marco Winters and Milan Zjalic.

Drafts have been distributed in advance to ICAR Members and placed on the ICAR web site with invitation for additional comments. The approved guidelines are available on the web site at: www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm

New ICAR Members

The General Assembly welcomed new Members and Associate Members of ICAR:

Full members

- Asociatia Crescatorilor de Vaci "Baltata Romaneasca" Tip Simmental, Romania
- Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding, Bulgaria
- Registros Genealógicos Zootécnicos del Perú, Peru
- Consejo Nacional de los Recursos Genéticos Pecuarios A.C. (CONARGEN A.C.), Mexico
- Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca - Subsecretaría de Ganadería, Ecuador



Vasil Nikolov,
representative of Executive
Agency for Selection and
Reproduction in Animal
Breeding, Bulgaria



Hannah Pearce,
representative
of IDEXX, United
Kingdom

Associate members:

- Pyramid-protection of plants-777 Ltd. , Kazakhstan
- IDEXX Europe BV , The Netherlands
- KazPoliPlast Ltd. – Kazakhstan
- TarazPolyHim Ltd., Kazakhstan
- Confidex, Finland
- Datamars SA, Switzerland
- Allflex Europe SAS, France

The total number of Members has been increased by 12 new members and now there are 70 full members and 29 associate members.

Certificate of Quality

At the General Assembly, Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR, delivered Certificate of Quality to

- JSC Animal Recording Control, Lithuania, for production recording and identification in dairy cattle.
- Israel Cattle Breeders' Association, Israel, for identification, production recording and genetic evaluation in dairy cattle and to
- National Milk Records plc, United Kingdom, for production recording in dairy cattle.

Awards:

Distinguished Certificate Award was delivered at the General Assembly to outgoing members of ICAR Sub-Committees and Working Groups:

- Mark Adam (Recording Devices SC)
- Moises Asparin (Animal Fibre WG)
- Fabrizio Castagnetti (Animal Fibre WG)
- Gerben De Jong (Artificial Insemination WG)
- Eduardo Frank (Animal Fibre WG)
- Elena Genzini (Genetic Analysis WG)

Distinguished Service Award was accorded to the former chairmen of Sub-Committees and Working Groups:

- Paolo Ajmone Marsan (Genetic Analysis WG)
- Olivier Leray (Milk Analysis Sub Committee)
- Erling Strandberg (Functional Traits)



From the top: Representatives of JSC Animal Recording Control, Lithuania, Israel Cattle Breeders' Association, Israel and National Milk Records plc, United Kingdom collecting the Certificate of Quality delivered by ICAR President, Uffe Lauritsen

Frank Armitage received President's Award

The declaration made by Uffe Lauritsen that Frank Armitage was accorded the President's Award was met with standing ovations of all delegates and observers of the General Assembly. We join them in extending our congratulations to Frank.



Frank Armitage, Awarded with the President's Award

NEW ICAR STATUTES

Following the procedure that includes requests for comments by Members and the endorsement by the Board, the Extraordinary General Assembly approved changes and amendments to ICAR Statutes. The new text is available at: www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm

Uffe Lauritsen re-elected President of ICAR

The ICAR Board at its meeting held 01 June 2012 in Cork, Ireland, elected Uffe Lauritsen as President of ICAR. At the same meeting, the President appointed Jay Mattison and Daniel Abernethy as Vice-Presidents, Reinhard Reents as Secretary and Pierre-Louis Gastinel as Treasurer of ICAR, following of the proposal of the President. In accordance with the ICAR Statutes, President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer are members of the Executive Board of ICAR.

Christian Baumgartner new chairman of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee

The ICAR Board elected Christian Baumgartner as a new chairman of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee to replace Olivier Leray who resigned from this post. The Board expressed appreciation for the excellent work of Olivier Leray and his contribution to the attainment of ICAR objectives.



Christian Baumgartner (first on the left), the new Chairman of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee, accompanied by the Members of the SC.

Wim van Haeringen new chairman of the Genetic Analysis Working Group

The ICAR Board elected Wim van Haeringen as a new chairman of the Genetic Analysis Working Group to replace Paolo Aimone Marsan who resigned from this post. The Board expressed appreciation for the significant contribution of Paolo Aimone Marsan in establishing genetic analysis as a new field of activities of ICAR and in building sound scientific basis for further developments.

Enrico Santus and Juraj Handrak members of the INTERBULL Steering Committee

Following the nomination made by the INTERBULL Steering Committee, the ICAR Board appointed Enrico Santus and Juraj Handrak members of the INTERBULL Steering Committee for the period of four years.

FROM SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

All ICAR technical bodies had an opportunity to present their work to the broad audience composed of delegates and observers attending the ICAR General Assembly. Their programs and activities requiring support by the Board and the Secretariat were presented at the joint meeting of the Board and Chairpersons. New programs include:

- Mechanical test for electronic devices (Animal Identification Sub-Committee).
- Projects on AMS universal sampler, templates for milk recording devices, Manufacturer Ally, DataCal and Web Refresh (Recording Devices Sub-Committee).
- A questionnaire on cow milk recording to see how guidelines match with practice (WG Dairy Cow Milk Recording).
- Collect procedures in goat meat recording and a workshop on udder score recording (Goat Milk Recording).
- A survey of functional traits and multidisciplinary workshop to be organized in Aarhus (Functional Trait WG).
- Strengthen the system, support improvements in technology and stimulate all Members to nominate reference laboratories and to participate in ring tests; support to training of experts from developing countries so as to increase their competence (Milk Analysis Sub-Committee).

JOINT WORKSHOP OF ICAR AND WORLD BREED FEDERATIONS

The joint workshop of ICAR and World Breed Federations was held on 27th June 2012 in Cork, Ireland, on the occasion of the 38th ICAR Session. The workshop was attended by 28 participants representing ICAR and major international, national and regional breed associations.

Participants at the workshop identified parentage recording, including the use of SNP, conformation and genetic recessive codes, standards how to proceed when a new recessive comes out as fields of joint interest. They agreed on steps that should be undertaken in order to improve collaboration between ICAR and World Breed Federations including a preparation of a

survey of key issues of interest to ICAR and WBF, participation of experts from WBF in the work of ICAR technical bodies , preparation of a calendar of ICAR meetings of interest to WBF and the use of ICAR meetings as a venue for meetings for exchange of experience and coordination of activities of World Breed Federations. Remarks and views related to the new fee structure will be presented to the ICAR Board and to the General Assembly. The ICAR Secretariat shall prepare proposals and modalities for the implementation of the new fee structure.

SECRETARIAT'S CONTACTS

- Frank Armitage; frank@icar.org
- Elena Couto; elena@icar.org
- Juhani Maki-Hokkonen; jussi@icar.org
- Andrea Rosati; rosati@icar.org
- Milan Zjalic; milan@icar.org