Animal Identification System in Latvia

Agricultural Data Centre
State institution under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture
www.ldc.gov.lv

Administration and maintenance of national livestock database

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Main historical events

- 1895 – first pure-bred cattle registered in Baltic herd book
- 1970-1993 – SELEKS automated information processing system implemented and deployed (milk recording, veterinary)
- 1993-1998 – Cattle milk recording system moved to personal computers
- 1991 – Latvia joins ICAR
- 1998 – National animal identification and registration system created, in order to ensure compliance with all relevant European Union regulation, as well as ICAR guidelines
- 2009,2013 – Agricultural Data Centre has been granted with the ICAR Certificate of Quality in identification and performance recording fields (dairy and beef cattle, dairy sheep and goats)
- 2010 – According to the results of EU audit, Latvian bovine database is recognized as fully operational, cattle passports are no longer needed for national movements
Government responsibilities (1)

- National livestock database (1998-....)
  - Individual animal identification (cattle – two eartags; sheep and goat – two visual eartags with one microchip; horses, pets - microchip)
  - Group level identification (pigs – eartag with holding ID)
  - Statistic questionnaires (poultry, bees, domesticated game animals, aquacultures, etc.)
- Register of animal movements and ownership (natural/legal person, place, dates)
- Animal holding register – on-spot checks, health status, movement and product trade prohibitions, etc. (Food and Veterinary Service – FVS)
- Production (laser printing, programming microchips) and direct distribution of animal eartags
- Electronic notification system for slaughterhouses and animal traders (2009)
**Government responsibilities (2)**

- Veterinary risk assessment system (2004)
- Register of mandatory veterinary testing (2012)
- Register of animal foodstuff producers (2008)
- Milk register (certification of milk purchasers, EU milk quota administration, 2004-2015)
- Register of milk quality (2009)
- Animal performance recording system (beef and milk cattle, exterior evaluation, milk goats, sheep)
- Register of certificated sires, herd book, genetic resources, bull evaluation service (INTERBULL)
- Administration and supervision of service persons (zootechnicians, exterior evaluation experts, AI technicians, veterinarians, FVS inspectors, etc.)
- Recognition and certification of breeding organizations
Blank animal ear tags are being supplied by two producers (Caisley since 1998 and Allflex since 2001), then printed and distributed directly to farmer.

Farmer can order ear tags using various channels: by phone, over the internet, or using a paper form.

Farmers are able to submit all the required information using the free to use online web application.

Farmers also can browse and check all their registered data, including access to various reports, printouts, etc.

Service persons, slaughterhouses, animal traders, milk purchasers can submit or browse the required information using the online access to livestock database, according to their credentials.

Every single part of national livestock identification system is being kept in a single computerized relational database, which allows for additional data cross-checking and vastly improves quality of registered information.
Possible future improvements of animal identification system

- Electronic data exchange and interoperability of animal databases
- Development of farm computer software and infrastructure
- Registration of notifications using online system only, reducing amount of paperwork
- Compulsory electronic identification of animals

Thank you for your attention!
Questions?