

ICAR WG Conformation




Gerben de Jong
Animal Evaluation Unit

Objectives of WG

- Standardise methods of assessing conformation in accordance with rules and standards as established by each world / international federation of respective breeds
- Breeds to consider
 - dairy and beef breeds
 - other breeds (goats, sheep, horses)
- Improve transparency in data collection and quality control



WG Members

- Gerben de Jong
 - Lucy Andrews
 - Gabriel Blanco
 - Laszlo Bognar
 - Bethany Muir - joined in 2009
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Meetings WG

- October 2008 Ireland
 - July 2009 - skype
 - December 2009 - UK
 - March 2010 - Paris
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Presentation of group

- WHFF classifiers meeting, Paris
 - February/March 2010
- Blonde d'Aquitaine meeting, Netherlands
 - April 2010
- Topics:
 - what is WG doing
 - explain how to improve quality of data collection

Working plan last 2 years

- Survey on traits scored in dairy breeds
 - Holstein Friesian
 - other than Holstein
 - describe traits which are scored rather commonly
- Survey in beef breeds on traits
- Describe how to improve quality of data and transparency

Result

- Update ICAR document
 - update of current traits
 - added extra list of commonly scored traits in dairy/dual purpose breeds
 - recommendations on improving quality and transparency of data collection and monitoring classifiers

Survey on trait in dairy breeds

- Common traits, other than in current ICAR list added to ICAR document:
 - Hock development
 - Bone structure
 - Rear udder width
 - Teat thickness
 - Muscularity

Improvement of data quality and transparency

- ICAR document has been extended on
 - classification system
 - monitoring results of classifiers
 - check mean, spread
 - method on checking same trait scored by all classifiers

Topics to work on

- Beef breeds
 - survey
 - contacts with Blondes organisations
 - see if WG can support harmonisation in beef breeds
- Being platform to discuss new topics

