ICAR WG
Conformation

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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

Meetings WG

• October 2008 Ireland
• July 2009 - skype
• December 2009 - UK
• March 2010 - Paris
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