

Key Outcomes from ICAR/Interbeef Workshop.

Date and venue; 25 & 26 November, Roganstown House Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin.

The following is a list of the key outcomes from the ICAR/Interbeef workshop which was held in Dublin on 25 & 26 November, 2014. Some 80 people attended the workshop from over 20 different ICAR member countries. These 12 points were listed in the final “wrap-up” session on Wednesday morning (26 November).

ICAR/Interbeef should;

1. Continue to expand its international evaluation service to include more traits and breeds. Particular focus should be given to traits where there is significant interest in sharing internationally, e.g., feed intake. Services must be scientifically critiqued and meet the needs of members.
2. Host an “international genotyped animal list” for potential sharing of genotypes amongst members.
3. Host a repository of genotypes (GenoEx) and standard exchange formats for potential sharing of genotypes amongst members.
4. Offer an imputation service for both parentage verification and genomic evaluations for its members.
5. Offer an international genomic breeding value service for members (based on shared genotypes and phenotypes).
6. Offer a range of services for members, depending on their particular needs and requirements (as per points 1-5 above).
7. Develop a service fee structure that covers the cost of providing the various services outlined above (as per points 1-5 above).
8. Revisit the original terms of reference of the “beef working group” as a means of re-engaging with all ICAR members interested in beef data recording and genetic/genomic evaluation.
9. Provide an increased lobbying role regarding the importance of collaboration in the context of international genetic/genomic evaluations. This is especially relevant for potential funding bodies, e.g., EU and national governments and for future changes in relevant legislations affecting members.
10. Continue to organise networking events such as conferences/workshops as these facilitate greater collaboration in the areas of data, genotypes, software and knowledge.
11. Provide a forum for discussion on the application and implication of genomics on future breeding programs and breeding goals.
12. Ensure slides, notes and questionnaires are posted on the ICAR/Interbeef website as soon as possible.