

SURVEY OF STAKEHOLDERS – JULY 2012

FOLLOWUP TO WORKSHOP HELD DURING
ICAR MEETINGS IN CORK IN MAY 2012

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BACKGROUND

During the 2012 ICAR Conference held in Cork from May 28th to June 1st an InterBeef Workshop was held. The outcomeⁱ of the workshop was a series of twenty two recommendations as follows:

1. The consensus was that collaboration is key to the success of Interbeef and that Interbeef will work.
2. There needs to be standardisation of phenotypic traits i.e. condition score, type evaluations, across all countries. This may involve updating the guidelines that are currently in place.
3. Need to identify what traits are most valuable (one group suggested prioritising calving ease, weaning weight and carcass weight out of 21 traits they had identified) and if any more or new traits need to be recorded e.g. recording 2 weights in and around weaning time.
4. Need to encourage and emphasise the importance of weight recording for all countries.
5. Interbeef needs to provide a service to farmers in order for the Industry to realise the benefits.
6. Interbeef should provide the leadership and drive to collect all phenotypes and genotypes in the one database.
7. Initially, Interbeef needs to resolve all pedigree issues for both beef and dairy animals along with devising tools that will find pedigree errors.
8. A set of rules relating to pedigree information should be put in place for all countries providing data to Interbeef. Also, there should be rules around the timing of evaluations (3 runs per year was recommended) and publications.
9. A work-plan is needed to allocate the workload across all those involved. The workgroup involved in carrying out the work-plan would also provide a leading role in problem solving.
10. Funding for genotyping should be prioritised for animals with good genetic links especially now that we are potentially moving from 54k chip to 777k chip.
11. Review the benefits, if any, of including crossbred animals for genetic evaluations carried out across countries.
12. Interbeef should be heavily involved in reducing the cost of genotyping.
13. There should be sharing of genotypes across countries to speed up and further improve the progress of genomics.
14. Interbeef should help reduce genotyping and research and development costs for emerging populations.
15. Interbeef should outline the benefits for breeds and countries that have not yet signed up to the program.
16. There should be a committee set up to oversee research across all countries involved in Interbeef in order to maximise resources and avoid duplication.
17. Countries that are not participating in Interbeef should get access to foreign ebv's.

18. There needs to be a review carried out of the role of national genetic evaluation now that there is the potential for global genetic evaluations.
19. There also needs to be a review carried out as to how each country records traits and carry out genetic evaluations.
20. The knowledge gained from genomics in dairy could potentially be a template for beef. This potential needs to be explored further.
21. Interbeef needs to look at how visual images and new technologies can be used for more objective recording of live and slaughter characteristics.
22. Look at accepting pedigree information from counties that don't want to send phenotypic data.

As a follow-up a survey of potential stakeholders in InterBeef was organized. This report provides the results of the survey.

METHODS

QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 1 TO 7

The recommendations arising from the workshop were grouped under the following five headings:

1. Beef Performance Recording
2. Research & Development
3. International Database for use by InterBeef Service Users
4. Services to Service Users
5. Promoting & Growing Services

The recommendations were reworded as actions to be undertaken by InterBeef. Survey respondents were asked to indicate the priority (1 for highest) they would allocate to each under each heading and then the priority (question 6) for the major areas (headings). The software usedⁱⁱ enabled each priority level to be used only once.

A freeform text box (question 7) was provided to enable respondents to provide comments on any aspect of these priority questions.

QUESTIONS 8 TO 13

These five questions related to the interests of the respondents.

8. Breeds of interest
9. Traits that should be given most importance for InterBeef

10. Main interests in beef cattle.
11. Functions of employing organization.
12. Comment and suggestions.
13. Details for adding to InterBeef contact list.

DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was distributed by the ICAR Secretariat to some 2,000 email addresses of people identified as having a possible interest in some aspect of beef production.

ANALYSIS

The raw data was exported to an Excel spreadsheet and averages and distributions were computed using Excel functions. The results are presented graphically or in tabular form.

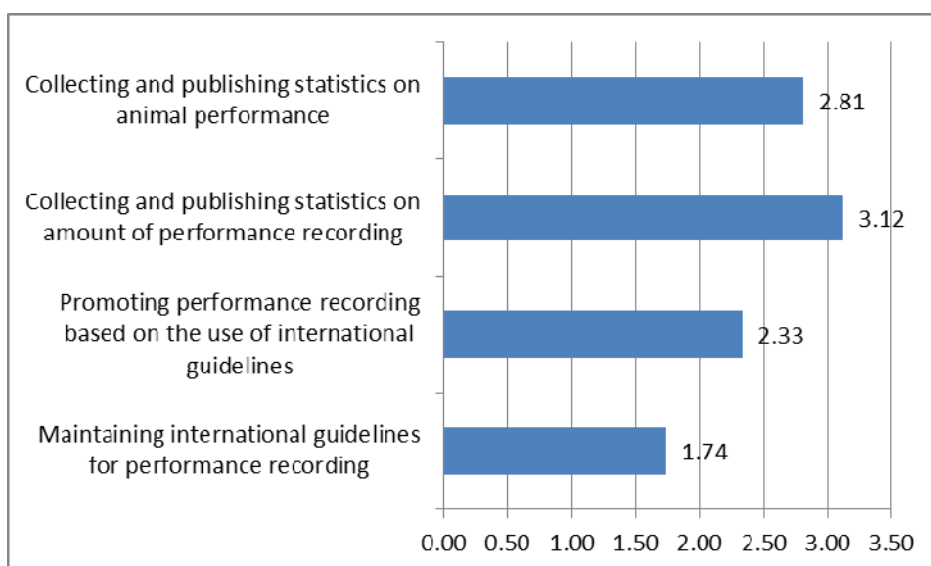
RESULTS

DATE OF ANALYSIS

The analysis reported here was conducted on 15th August 2012 using all completed surveys available at that time.

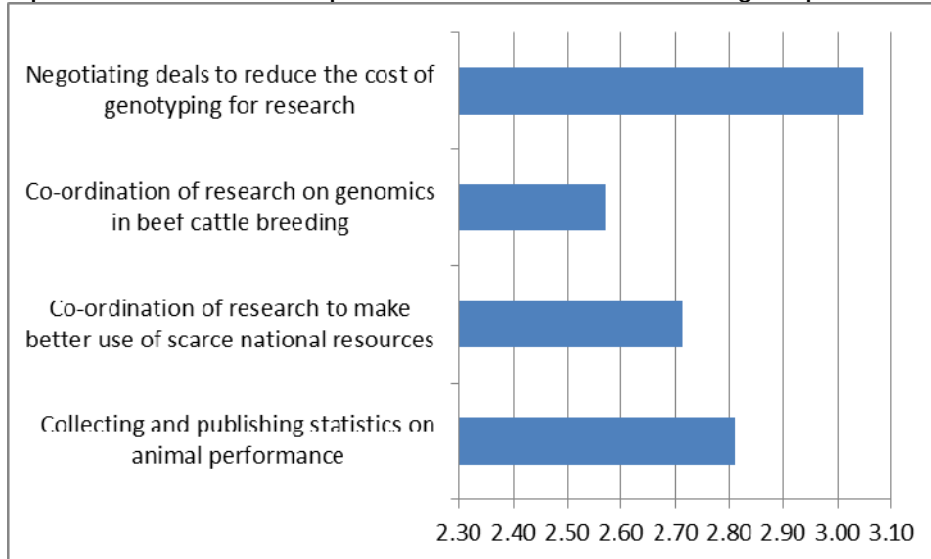
QUESTION 1.

Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Beef Performance Recording.



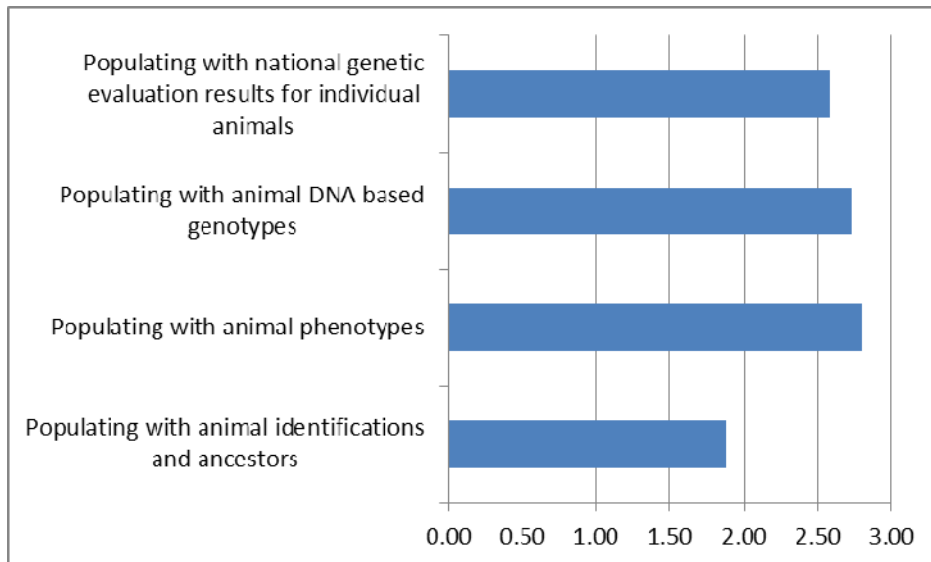
QUESTION 2.

Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Research & Development relevant to beef cattle breeding and production.



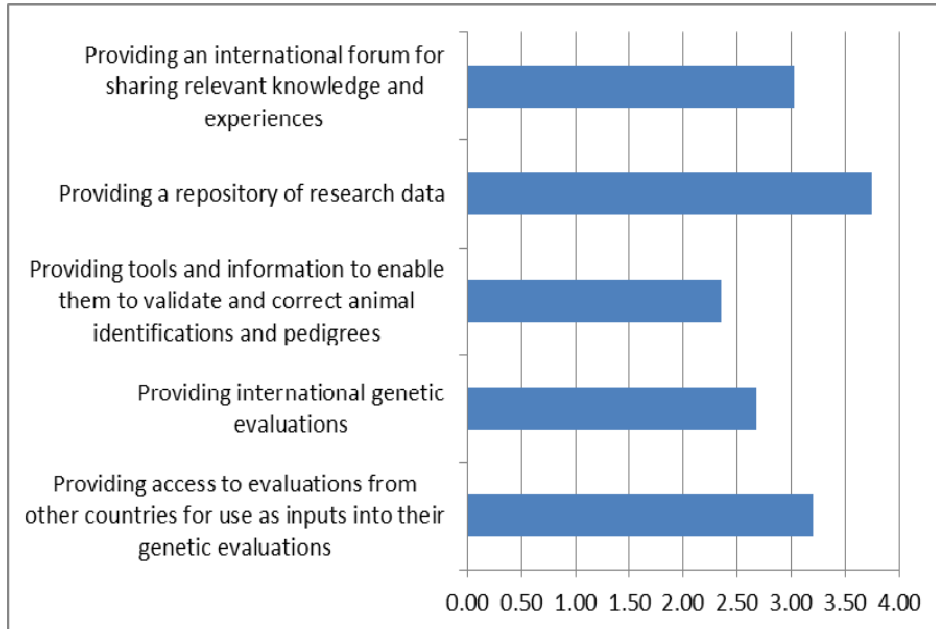
QUESTION 3

Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of establishing an International Database for use by InterBeef Service Users.



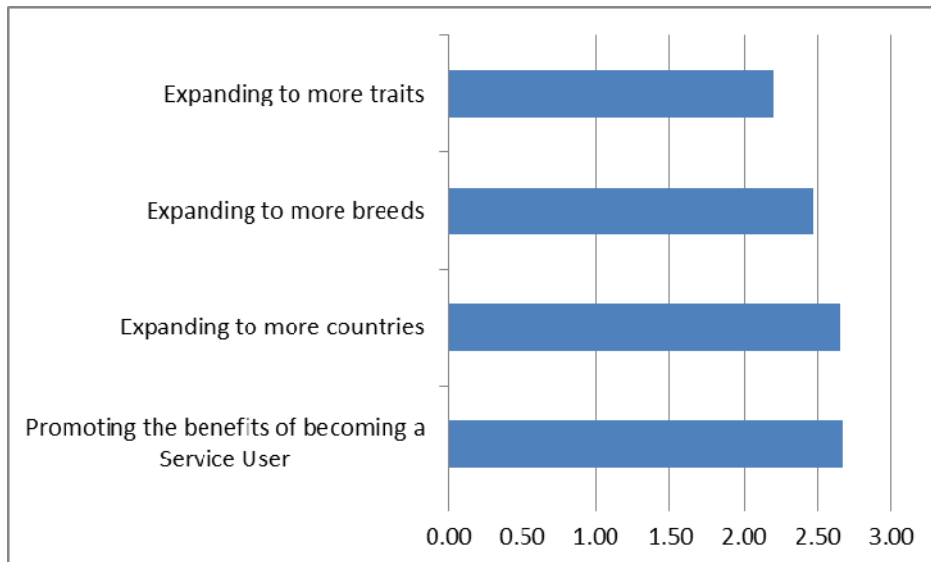
QUESTION 4

Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 5 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to establishing these Services to Service Users.



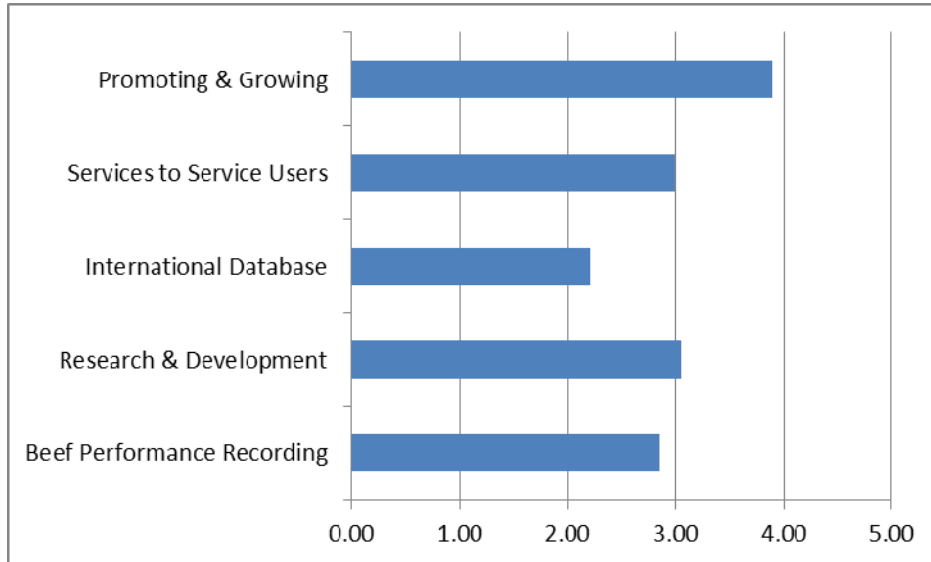
QUESTION 5

Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Promoting and Growing its services.



QUESTION 6

Please indicate your ranking (1 for highest priority to 5 for lowest priority) for these InterBeef activities.



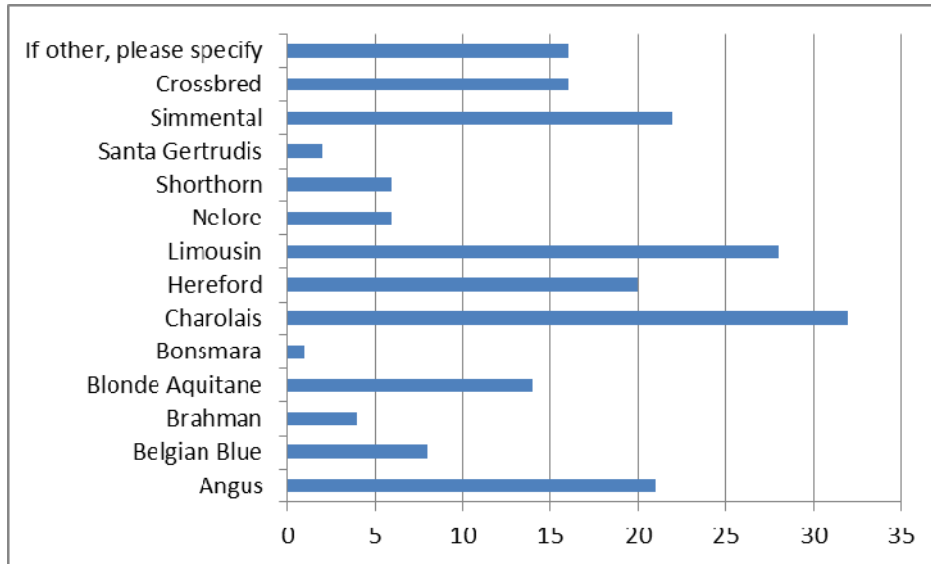
QUESTION 7

Comments on any aspect of these InterBeef priority questions?

No.	Comment
1	A clear decision for the priority is not possible in all questions. I guess in most cases steps must be done parallel or simultaneously. I put the priority ranks as a combination of time and technical aspects.
2	A clear ranking of the items is not possible from our point of view, since items within each question have to be operated simultaneously resp. parallel.
3	Based on experience with international evaluations and multi-breed evaluations I think currently it is difficult at best to further build international evaluations. I think research though that adds a producer to understand how to evaluate animals internationally and how those animals might rank across evaluations has some potential. Different production and marketing strategies does not help the situation as well.
4	It will be important for all countries to have access to all genomic information and to have some unique ID by breed and country.
5	It would be interesting to read some of the work done by interbeef until now.
6	Just about all the aspects are of high priority. This means that lower rankings might still be of extreme importance, especially in future activities. The principle of free exchange of ideas, data and information should still be top priority.
7	No comments.
8	The expansion and increase in accuracy of Genomic evaluations is clearly dependent on a large, multinational data base of (1) sire breeding values for important traits, for the major breeds, 2) individual performance data for females and young males, as well as SNP genotypes and only then 3) these may be used to develop accurate genomic evaluation predictions!

QUESTION 8

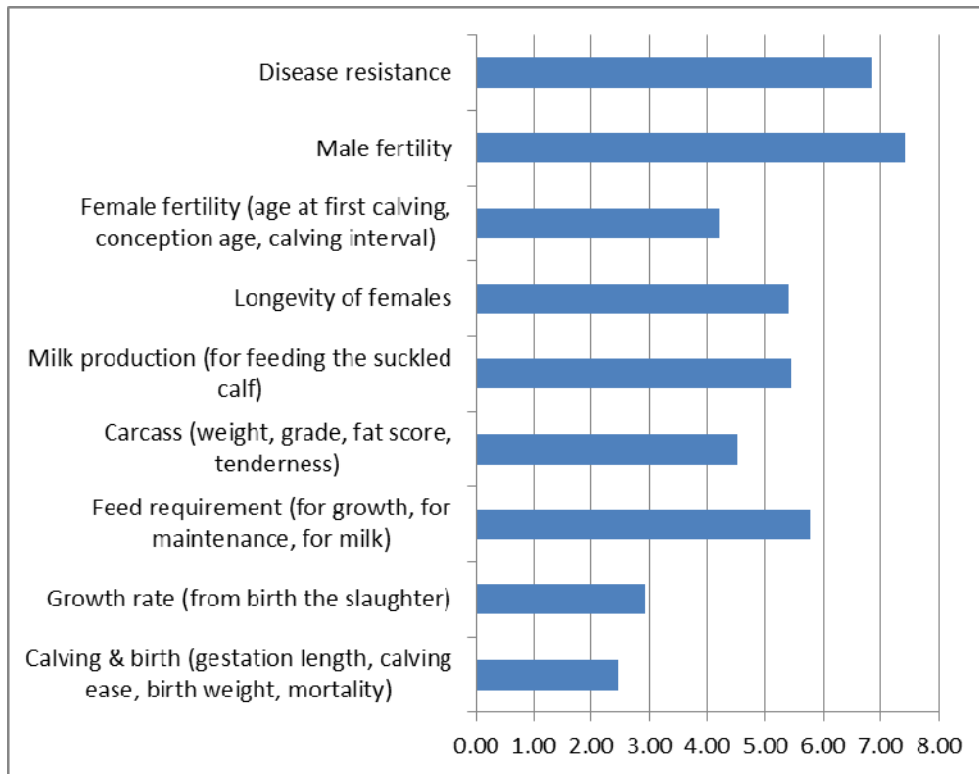
What breeds are of greatest interest to you?



No.	Other Specified
1	Aubrac
2	Braunvieh, Grauvieh, Aubrac, Luing, Piemontese, Salers, Galloway, Highland-Cattle, Dexter, Pinzgauer
3	Dairy breeds
4	Dairy breeds
5	Gelvbieh
6	Highland Cattle
7	Holstein
8	Mertolenga from Portugal
9	Mertolenga, Alentejana, Minhota, Mirandesa
10	No specific breed alignment or interest
11	Our interest is in genetic evaluation of animals, regardless of breed composition
12	Piedmontese, chianina, marchigiana
13	RUBIA GALLEGA
14	Salers, Aubrac, Gasconne, Parthenaise, Rouge des Prés
15	Scottish Highland Cattle

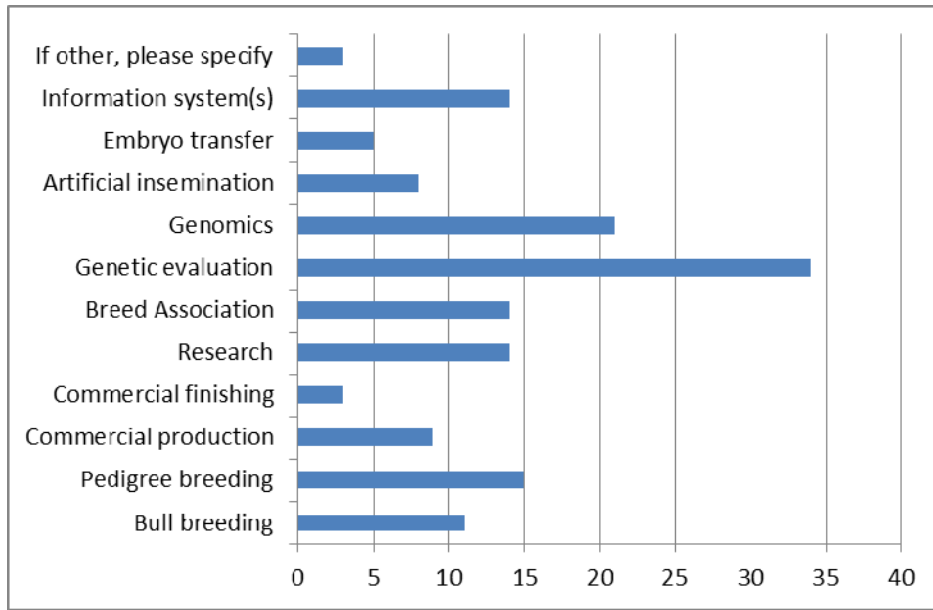
QUESTION 9

Please rank (1 for top to 9 for bottom) these traits in terms of the importance they should be given by InterBeef.



QUESTION 10

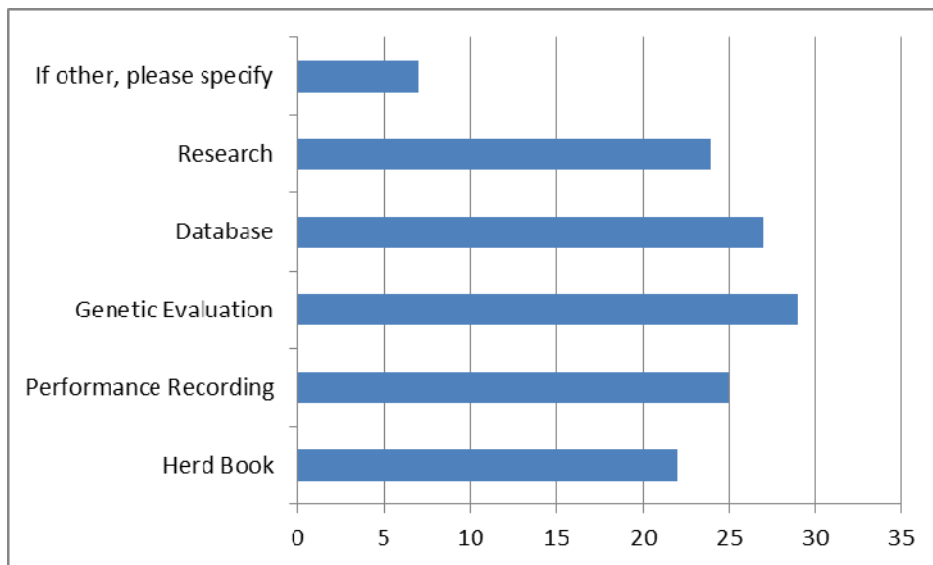
What are your main interest(s) in beef cattle?



No.	If other, please specify
1	International collaboration
2	Official Veterinary Services - Portugal

QUESTION 11

Which of the following beef cattle breeding functions are conducted by the organization you work for?



No.	If other, please specify
1	ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION
2	beef brands
3	insemination
4	Official Veterinary Services - Portugal

5	Promotion and Marketing
6	Umbrella organisation of German beef breeding associations

QUESTION 12

Please feel free to comment or add other suggestions for InterBeef.

No.	Other Comments
1	Ad traits: 1. Growth rates 1-200 d and 1-365 d 2. Milk production: better maternal effect on growth rate (200d)
2	I would suggest you more close communicate with Russian scientists and breeders.
3	Lets get started ASAP. Set deadlines as to implementation ASAP. Get a good INTERBEEF team and not dairy geneticists in place.
4	The international collaboration should be promoted as soon as possible.

QUESTION 13

If you would like to be added to our contact list for people wishing to be informed of InterBeef activities please complete the following details.

Details provided by 29 people. These will be added to the InterBeef interest group.

CONCLUSIONS

PRIORITIES FOR INTERBEEF

- Maintaining international guidelines for beef performance recording.
- Co-ordination of research on genomics in beef cattle breeding
- Populating (the international database) with animal identifications and ancestors.
- Providing tools and information to enable them (Service Users) to validate and correct animal identifications and pedigrees, followed by the provision of international evaluations.
- Expanding to more traits.
- (Establishing an) International Database.

RESPONDENTS

- The sample responding (43) is a relatively small sample and efforts to get greater coverage should be pursued.
- The sample is broadly representative of the interests associated with European beef cattle breeds including Herd Books, Genetic Evaluations, Performance Recording and Research. There is a deficit in responses from commercial producers.

APPENDIX 1 – QUESTIONS

1. Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Beef Performance Recording.

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 4.

Maintaining international guidelines for performance recording _____

Promoting performance recording based on the use of international guidelines _____

Collecting and publishing statistics on amount of performance recording _____

Collecting and publishing statistics on animal performance _____

2. Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Research & Development relevant to beef cattle breeding and production

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 4.

Co-ordination of research to make better use of scarce national resources _____

Co-ordination of research on genomics in beef cattle breeding _____

Negotiating deals to reduce the cost of genotyping for research _____

Co-ordinating the research & development of international genetic evaluations _____

3. Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of establishing an International Database for use by InterBeef Service Users

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 4.

Populating with animal identifications and ancestors _____

Populating with animal phenotypes _____

Populating with animal DNA based genotypes _____

Populating with national genetic evaluation results for individual animals _____

4. Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 5 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to establishing these Services to Service Users

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 5.

Providing access to evaluations from other countries for use as inputs into their genetic evaluations

Providing international genetic evaluations _____

Providing tools and information to enable them to validate and correct animal identifications and pedigrees

Providing a repository of research data _____

Providing an international forum for sharing relevant

knowledge and experiences _____

5. Please indicate the priority (1 for highest to 4 for lowest) you think InterBeef should give to these aspects of Promoting and Growing its services

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 4.

Promoting the benefits of becoming a Service User _____

Expanding to more countries _____

Expanding to more breeds _____

Expanding to more traits _____

6. Please indicate your ranking (1 for highest priority to 5 for lowest priority) for these InterBeef activities

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 5.

Beef Performance Recording _____

Research & Development _____

International Database _____

Services to Service Users _____

Promoting & Growing _____

7. Comments on any aspect of these InterBeef priority questions?

Page 2 - A few things about you and your opinions

*** 8. What breeds are of greatest interest to you?**

Q Angus Q Belgian Blue Q Brahman Q Blonde Aquitaine Q Bonsmara Q Charolais Q Hereford Q Limousin Q Nelore
Q Shorthorn Q Santa Gertrudis Q Simmental Q Crossbred Q If other, please specify

9. Please rank (1 for top to 9 for bottom) these traits in terms of the importance they should be given by InterBeef

Rank the following items using numbers from 1 to 9.

Calving & birth (gestation length, calving ease, birth weight, mortality) _____

Growth rate (from birth the slaughter) _____

Feed requirement (for growth, for maintenance, for milk) _____

Carcass (weight, grade, fat score, tenderness) _____

Milk production (for feeding the suckled calf) _____

Longevity of females _____

Female fertility (age at first calving, conception age, calving interval) _____

Male fertility _____

Disease resistance _____

*** 10. What are your main interest(s) in beef cattle?**

Q Bull breeding Q Pedigree breeding Q Commercial production Q Commercial finishing Q Research Q Breed
Association Q Genetic evaluation Q Genomics Q Artificial insemination Q Embryo transfer Q Information system(s)
Q If other, please specify

* 11. Which of the following beef cattle breeding functions are conducted by the organisation you work for?

Herd Book Performance Recording Genetic Evaluation Database Research If other, please specify

12. Please feel free to comment or add other suggestions for InterBeef.

13. If you would like to be added to our contact list for people wishing to be informed of InterBeef activities please complete the following details

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Country _____

Email Address _____

Ref: Z:\Interbeef\Surveys\July 2012\InterBeef Survey Report August 2012 v1.docx

ⁱ http://www.icar.org/Documents/Interbeef_Minutes_20_and_21062011.pdf

ⁱⁱ www.surveymethods.com