



# ICAR

## 1. HISTORY

In 1951 an organisation called the "European Milk ButterRecordingCommittee" was formed in the Hague, the Netherlands. This was the first formal establishment of an International non-governmental recording organisation.

During the following 20 years the committee was renamed several times and expanded from cows to cover sheep and goats. In 1990, two further steps were taken, to broaden the organisation worldwide and to assume responsibility for all farm livestock recordings that require international standardisation.

Finally the International Committee for Animal Recording was formed in 1992, new guidelines were adopted. These were the ICAR Constitution, the International Agreement on Recording Practices and the Special Stamp Rules. (A quality label to be applied by the member organisations meeting the ICAR requirements, on their official recording documents.)

## 2. AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The aims of ICAR are to promote improvement of farm animal recording and evaluation through the formulation of definitions and standards for the measurement of traits of economic importance by:

- 1) Establishing relevant recommendations, standards and guidelines concerning animal identification, recording of parentage, performance recording, evaluation and publication.
- 2) Promoting discussion and collaboration in all activities relevant to animal recording and evaluation.
- 3) Promoting the use of records to assess the merit of animals and of the farm management systems both of which are intended to increase the profitability of farming.
- 4) Promoting the practical interpretation of records.
- 5) Ensuring, with the collaboration of member organisations, the proper implementation and use of the requirements and guidelines contained in the agreement.
- 6) Surveying recording organisations, evaluating new practices and arranging meetings to discuss the results.
- 7) Issuing publications on recording and evaluation practices and on the development of techniques to overcome the problems often associated with these activities.
- 8) Establishing Sub Committees and Working Groups, to cover specific areas of recording and evaluation which require regular updating such as:
  - a) Recording methods and standards.
  - b) Standards for recording and analytical equipment.
  - c) Animal evaluations
  - d) Publications and enquiries
  - e) Rules Review / membership
  - f) Other activities as the board may determine

ICAR follows national and international legislation. Its guidelines and recommendations are to be regarded as minimum requirements set up to ensure a satisfactory degree of uniformity of recording among member countries, together with maximum flexibility in the choice of methods. If they so wish, ICAR member countries may enforce more stringent rules.

## 3. INFRASTRUCTURE

The signing of the International Agreement is the main commitment of any member when joining the organisation. ICAR actually has about 45 participating countries.

New members must meet ICAR's requirements within two years of the signature of the agreement. They must inform the board on the requirements to be complied with in their country and submit an annual report.

Full member organisations are entitled to utilise the services of ICAR and attend its meetings. Full members may be entitled to use the ICAR Special Stamp.

The success of ICAR activity depends on the work of its Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces. Results are presented during the General Assembly, which is held every two years, hosted by a member organisation.

There are three Sub-committees, two task forces and ten working groups currently in the structure. Details of the groups are given overleaf.

Two task forces were installed during the last General Assembly Meeting in Ottawa. The Task Force 'Breed Associations', will work out a proposal in the way ICAR can co-operate with international Herdbook Federations. The Task Force, 'Development Fund', will look at proposals on what ICAR can do in co-operation with FAO and other relevant intergovernmental bodies for the developing countries, focus on matters such as, making separate rules, support in membership fees, and support in information and technical advice about recording.

## 4. PUBLICATIONS

Every two years the proceedings of the biannual meeting are published. The Constitution, Special Stamp and the International Agreement on Recording Practices are also published with its guidelines and regularly updated. A newsletter is published three times a year and circulated to all member organisations and to other organisations and individuals interested in the work of ICAR.

## 5. FUNDING

ICAR is a non profit making international association which depends on the annual fees of its member organisations. Since 1995, the annual fees are calculated on the base of a basic contribution depending on the recorded species and a variable amount depending on the number of recorded animals.

ICAR offers special services exclusively reserved for its full members, the payment of contributions depending on the requested service. Among them, the most important is the use of the ICAR Special Stamp, the certification of approved equipment and devices concerning milk recording practices or animal identification, through laboratory and farm tests in ICAR authorised laboratories and organisations, and the granting of certificates.

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