

**INTERBEEF Technical Group meeting
24th October 2016**

1	Opening/Welcome	2
2	Adoption of Agenda.....	2
3	Minutes of Meeting 8th March 2016 Salzburg, Austria	2
4	Interbeef routine genetic evaluations for weaning weight (direct and maternal) – Eva Hjerpe (ITB) and Eric Venot (FRA)	2
4.1	Update from the ITBC (Eva)	2
4.2	Feedback on the current routine evaluation.....	2
4.3	Status of bull.....	3
4.4	Maternal publication rules	3
5	Using the Redmine tool for project management.	4
6	Update on Interbeef test runs/research.....	4
6.1	Feedback on Simmental test run evaluation - Eva Hjerpe (ITB) and representatives of the participating countries.....	4
6.2	Use of cross-bred data (& fake ancestors) in international evaluations – Thierry Pabiou (IRL) & Eva Hjerpe (ITB).	4
6.3	Calving performance – Pavel Bucek (CZE) (see presentation).....	5
6.4	VIT update on female fertility (TS).....	5
6.5	Carcass update (Mike Coffey represented Kirsty Moore).....	5
7	Overview of genetic and genomic evaluations in the different participating countries (country representatives at the meeting).	6
8	New developments relatives to IDEA and Interbeef database	6
8.1	IDEA AnimInfo module	6
8.2	Interbeef database	6
8.3	Introduction of XML fileformat	6
9	AOB.....	6
	Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants	6

1 Opening/Welcome

Eric Venot as chairman of the Interbeef Technical Group welcomed everyone and asked for a round of introductions (participants and apologies: Attached as appendix 1). For Switzerland, Urs Schnyder (SWI) informed the group that Christian Stricker will not participate in the Interbeef group any more as the genetic evaluations have moved to another organisation, Qualitas AG. Sophie Kunz will now be the new contact person. For UK, Kirsty Moore is also absent, and is represented by Mike Coffey. For France, Amandine Launay is represented by Laurent Griffon (participating through Skype). For Czech Republic, Zdenka Vesela is represented for the second part of the meeting by Pavel Bucek.

The group welcomed Rob Banks (AGBU director) and Hugh Nivison (ABRI Managing director).

2 Adoption of Agenda

Eric briefly went through the agenda and pointed out the fact that a general overview of genetic and genomic evaluations in the different countries has been added recently to the agenda to better share beef research and developments between countries. The agenda which was circulated at the start of the meeting was adopted.

3 Minutes of Meeting 8th March 2016 Salzburg, Austria

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed. Eva pointed out the absence of information on Verified Animals in the Minutes. This will be checked by Eva and Eric.

4 Interbeef routine genetic evaluations for weaning weight (direct and maternal) – Eva Hjerpe (ITB) and Eric Venot (FRA)

4.1 Update from the ITBC (Eva)

The contact person for Interbeef technical list need to be updated:

- for Switzerland, Sophie Kunz is now the contact for Interbeef Technical Committee. Svenja Stasser and Urs Vogt should be the contact persons for the Working Group.
- for UK, during Kisty maternity leave, the contact person will be Karolina Kaseja.

For Germany, Thomas Schmidt stated that Friedrich Rheinhardt and Wolfgang Ruten are German representatives for the Technical Group but not for Working group. Thomas is the contact person for the Working Group. Eva will correct this.

4.2 Feedback on the current routine evaluation

There was a discussion on the current process for the evaluation of weaning weight. Eva went through the process from start to finish for a routine run. Eric acknowledged that the last few runs appeared to run very smoothly. Checks are run on the data once it is loaded to the FTP site. Based on this, problems are identified quite quickly. Data is well compared against the previous data. There was agreement that the process is working well.

The log files from the checking program are distributed at each routine evaluation. Eva went through the log files. MC observed that the Spanish data appeared to be omitted. Eva said the Spanish data is omitted from the log files but the data is still included in the evaluations. Urs Schnyder: It could be useful to have the % of changed animals as a % of total records in the evaluations. Eva: Proposed to put in a 5% limit threshold which gets flagged if the changing animals are above this threshold. Eva checks the stats on EBVs per country i.e. number of records, means, sds. EV suggested to include only the current number of records and the difference from the previous instead of having the new and the old. EV asked if it

was possible to produce a html file. Haifa and Eva answered it would be difficult to produce html.

Situation in Germany

Thomas Schmidt outlined the current situation for Germany: about 20% of Charolais and 30% of German Limousin records are missing from the IDEA database. One area of Germany does not use the VIT system for recording. All the data in Germany is collated together once per year but there is a very manual process to pull all the pedigree data together. VIT are currently paying for all the German data (based on the number of breeding cows in Germany) even though this proportion of data is missing. Thomas was hoping to solve the problem ahead of this meeting but expects the extra data to come in near future. This will appear in the checking programs and Thomas wanted to mention this before it happens to that people are aware. Thomas stated that this situation related to the previous conversation about assigning the correct designated person to the contact list.

4.3 Status of bull

There was a request at the last meeting in Salzburg to include animal status in the publication files. The proposal as outlined by Eva is the same system as dairy but with some additional codes. Code 05 is proposed for Natural service/stock bull. Everybody agreed on this code.

Other type of proof ie. First crop sampling daughters, first and second crop daughterse etc. are available from dairy. Discussion took place on the inclusion of a category based on daughters in more than x herds (Thomas suggested it would be more important to display the % coming from one herd. EV suggested to change daughter to records. Urs Schnyder suggested a % of daughters/progeny in the largest herd). Finally, it was decided to keep this animal status addition simple and therefore not to add type of proofs.

Animal status information will be included as a new column in file 605. This change will be implemented in January 2017.

4.4 Maternal publication rules

Since Salzburg meeting, LG and EH have exchanged over maternal publication rule application and LG indicated that there was a misunderstanding between ITBC and France on the progeny counts. Correction has been implemented at ITBC and results sent back to LG. LG made first checks and stated that the maternal rule implementation at ITBC is now better. Eva outlined the Action plan from this point forward:

- France needs more checking
- Exchange with ITBC
- Next test run in March 2017 potential for a release of test Maternal ebvs for aww
- Official release in November 2017.

Rob Banks queried why so few bulls have less than 15 daughters. EV explained that these are selected based on the French publication rules. MC asked if it would be possible to publish results in March. EH said that there is another routine run in January 2017. MC said there is a lot of pressure on national organisations to publish results to justify the cost of Interbeef participation. LG pointed out the fact that before implementing maternal publication rules, participating countries need to send the 605 file with published maternal EBVs. Eva: January is too soon to get test proofs out with the new publication rules integrated as all countries need time to test the results. Laurent will do the extra checking

and comment back before the end of the year. It is decided that the maternal publication rules will be applied in 2017 March test run. Countries should prepare new 605 file in this purpose. Eva will send all information to participating countries.

5 Using the Redmine tool for project management.

ITBC mentioned that Redmine tool for project management is now available. It will help information exchange on Interbeef projects. VIT volunteered to use this tool for the fertility project. Eva gave a run through the tool. MC said E-genes use it all the time for their projects. EV said INRA use it as well and this tool became quite central in their ISO certification system. He suggested it should be used for both the research and the routine projects. Eva agreed and discussion was on the possibility to use it for the service calendar also. Thierry Pabiou says the key is to break the project up in to short term chunks that can be closed off quite quickly when the work is done. EV: to help countries not familiar with Redmine, it is recommended that ITBC prepares a simple user notice on Redmine.

6 Update on Interbeef test runs/research

6.1 Feedback on Simmental test run evaluation - Eva Hjerpe (ITB) and representatives of the participating countries.

Beef Simmental are coded as BSM to differentiate from the dairy Simmental. Participating countries were SWI, GER, DFS and IRL. DEU contributed most of the data: 179k total data records in the test run. 165k in the publication file.

- SWI publication number is very low at 97 bulls (1%). This low number could reflect a problem with the publication file for SWI: to be checked.
- DEU feedback: the results were checked by TR and VIT separately and both feedback are good from BSM test evaluation.
- IRL feedback: Thierry showed slides, correlation of 0.47. Reliability is much higher with the National evaluation, as expected. IRL is happy to proceed to a routine evaluation. TP asked to also have crossbred data (20,000) animals included into the evaluation.
- DFS feedback (Emma Carlen) is also happy with the results and happy to proceed to official evaluation in January 2017

⇒ Interbeef Simmental genetic evaluation will therefore be official in January 2017.

6.2 Use of cross-bred data (& fake ancestors) in international evaluations – Thierry Pabiou (IRL) & Eva Hjerpe (ITB).

There was a request from Ireland for a test run to include the crossbred data from Ireland and leave other countries as is.

- Methodology and results of test run with Irish data were presented (TP). The method for the test run was to include breed covariates in the model for each animal. With this method post processing is needed to add back on the breed effects. MC: Pedigree group solutions would be a lot more accurate if they were calculated based on the Interbeef pedigree file instead of the domestic file. Ideally the breed fractions,

heterosis and recombination should be calculated based on what is in the IDEA database.

- IDEA had to authorise uploading breeds other than LIM, CHA and SIM.
- 602 and 603 files need to include breed fractions if going with covariates in the model line. Other version would involve creating pedigree groups at the ITBC. This version would not need any post processing.
- Results were sent to members on 4th October. There was no feedback from any of the participating countries on those results. The general consensus after discussion was to proceed with including the Irish data in the next routine run for Limousin and Charolais weaning weight evaluation. For Simmental a test run will be done first.

A survey was also sent out to see the level of interest in submitting crossbred data. Thomas Schmidt did not get the questionnaire as he was not on the mailing list. He indicated that his organisation would be very interested but that VIT might not necessarily be interested. Results were presented in a slide by Eva. CHE, DFS, IRL, GBR were all interested in sending and evaluating crossbred data. Some countries have a lot of crossbred carcass data but not weaning data i.e. DEU, CHE and FRA should fill in the survey as they did either not complete it the last time or the wrong representative body filled in the survey.

EC indicated that new budget will be dedicated in 2017 in DFS on beef evaluations. MC recommended that Interbeef could evaluate Holstein animals for carcass performance.

⇒ It is concluded that test run in March 2017 will include crossbred data from IRL, UK, CHE, CZE (?).

6.3 Calving performance – Pavel Bucek (CZE) (see presentation)

Pavel who was representing Zdenka Vesela at the meeting gave an update on the calving performance research work. There was a data call calving traits. IRL and FRA sent data for birthweight. DFS sent birth weight and caving ease as one country.

ZV has re-estimated all the direct genetic parameters based on calving difficulty and birth weight for whatever countries had data for both traits. She has faced convergence problems but work on re-estimation with models with maternal effects included is still underway. Charolais direct genetic parameters are available but some parameters needed to be set to default value. Limousine VCE is also underway. Multi-trait ebvs for calving and birthweight will be developed as soon as the parameter work finished. A conference call in late 2016 or early 2017 may be arranged to discuss timelines. EV will organize this webconference.

6.4 VIT update on female fertility (TS)

VIT decided to continue with the data they already had. Estimation of variance components will be finished in January 2017. Estimation of breeding values will then start, initially using VIT software and then using MIX99. A report will be made available at the next Interbeef meeting in June 2017.

6.5 Carcass update (Mike Coffey represented Kirsty Moore)

Kirsty is working on this at the moment. EC asked about when a data call from Interbeef will materialise. MC answered that this research will begin with a project between UK and IRL, considering a joint trait evaluation (one phenotype) first and then looking at traits as

being separate traits in different countries. A presentation should be given at the next Interbeef meeting in June 2017.

EV apologized on the fact that time has run out and the remaining agenda items 7, 8 and 9 were shifted to the Working Group meeting .

7 Overview of genetic and genomic evaluations in the different participating countries (country representatives at the meeting).

8 New developments relatives to IDEA and Interbeef database

8.1 IDEA AnimInfo module

8.2 Interbeef database

8.3 Introduction of XML fileformat

9 AOB.

Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants

First Name	Surname	Country	Organisation	Email address	type	
Eric	Venot	France	INRA	eric.venot@inra.fr	chairman	
Ross	Evans	Ireland	ICBF	revans@icbf.com	member	
Thierry	Pabiou	Ireland	ICBF	tpabiou@icbf.com	member	
Emma	Carlen	Denmark, Finland & Sweded	Nordic Cattle Association	Emma.Carlen@vxa.se	member	
Eva	Hjerpe	Sweden	Interbull Centre	Eva.Hjerpe@slu.se	observer	
Toine	Rossen	Sweden	Interbull Centre	Toine.Roozen@slu.se	observer	
Haifa	Benhajali	Sweden	Interbull Centre	haifa.benhajali@slu.se	observer	
Thomas	Schmidt	Germany	German Beef Cattle Association	Thomas.Schmidt@lazbw.bwl.de	observer	
Pavel	Bucek	Czech Republic	Czech Moravian Breeders Association	bucek@cmsch.cz	observer	
Martin	Burke	Ireland	ICAR	martin@icar.org	observer	
Silvester	Zgur	Slovenia	University of Ljubljana	Silvo.Zgur@bf.uni-lj.si	observer	
Urs	Schnyder	Switzerland	Qualitas AG	urs.schnyder@qualitasag.ch	observer	
Mike	Coffey	UK	SRUC	mike.coffey@sruc.ac.uk	member	Kirsty Moore
Romain	Saintilan	France	ALLICE	romain.saintilan@allice.fr	observer	
Alexis	Michenet	France	ALLICE	alexis.michenet@allice.fr	observer	
Hugh	Nivison	Australia	ABRI	hugh.nivison@abri.une.edu.au	observer	
Robert	Banks	Australia	AGBU	rbanks@une.edu.au	observer	
Dalia	Laureckaite-Tumeliene	Lituania	ZUM	dalia.laureckaite@zum.lt	observer	
Laurent	Griffon	France	IDELE	laurent.griffon@idele.fr	observer	Amandine Launay
apologies from Amandine Launay, Sophie Kunz, Kirsty Moore, Friedrich Rheinhardt and Wolfgang Rulen						