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1.0 A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

When addressing the board after my election as President of ICAR, I underlined the significant contribution of my predecessor Hans Wilmlink and of the many professionals who volunteer in our technical bodies to create and implement the Future ICAR Strategy and establish ICAR as a key global player in animal production.

The Edinburgh Conference clearly confirmed that ICAR is on track for addressing challenges and opportunities stemming from the developments in DNA technologies and new societal demands, such as animal care and the environment. In the ICAR Board's future work, looking to have strong connections with Interbull to support ICAR members with new techniques in recording and evaluation will be a priority work area. Other priorities include extending the ICAR organization's global reach to emerging countries and regions while forging strategic alliances with major regional and global players in animal production. Particular attention will be given to new services and projects, such as ICAR's Sensor Task Force, DNA Accreditation Services, Certification of ID and Recording Devices, and making the ICAR guidelines easier to access.

Thank you to each ICAR member and the several hundred individuals participating in technical groups and especially the ICAR professional staff for all your efforts and cooperation. The future and impact of ICAR is bright and vibrant as a partner in animal production.

Jay Mattison
(ICAR President)



Jay Mattison (on the left), the new ICAR President, and Hans Wilmlink (on the right)

New ICAR President

2.0 JAY MATTISON, NEW ICAR PRESIDENT

The ICAR Board, at its meeting held on 14 June 2017 in Edinburgh, UK, elected Jay Mattison as the President of ICAR. Jay is the CEO of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association, with headquarters located in Verona, Wisconsin, USA. He was elected as a member of the board in 2010 and served as ICAR Inspector and Vice-President. He also served as a member of the Interbull Steering Committee and a member of the Animal Identification Sub-Committee.

Board positions

3.0 NEW ICAR BOARD POSITIONS

The ICAR Board on the same day also elected Niels Henning Nielsen (SEGES, Denmark) and Daniel Lefebvre (Canadian DHI) as Vice-Presidents of the Board. It also reconfirmed Laurent Journaux (France Genetique Elevage) as Treasurer and Bianca Lind (ADR, Germany) as Secretary of the Board.

ICAR Conference in Edinburgh

4.0 ICAR CONFERENCE 2017, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (UK)

The Edinburgh International Conference Centre was the venue for the 2017 ICAR Conference, which was held from 11 to 16 June 2017. The conference focused on some strategic issues confronting those ICAR members whose business is animal data recording. As underlined by Mike Coffey, Programme Committee Chair, the rapid deployment of genomics in the dairy industry and the rise of new sensor technology mean that ICAR members will be confronted with competing demands for data, information and farmer expectations for integrated data solutions. Forty-two papers prepared by 138 authors dealt with the legal implications of data



In the above picture, Jay Mattison and Daniel Lefebvre, President and Vice-President of ICAR, respectively (First line picture). Laurent Journaux, ICAR Treasurer, and Bianca Lind, Secretary of the ICAR Board (Second line pictures).

provision services, the use of robots and sensors, the future of ICAR under alternative phenotyping strategies, integrating data to provide added value services, the impact of genomic services on performance recording organisations, and methods of gathering new phenotypes. The presentations will be published by the ICAR Secretariat in December 2017.

The conference was hosted by AHDB (Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board) and SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) and supported by 16 manufacturers of equipment and devices for identification, recording and evaluation in animal production. It was attended by more than 350 participants from 51 countries

In concluding the conference, CEO of ICAR Martin Burke summarised the main messages and presented ICAR's next steps in supporting its members to meet new demands and challenges. On behalf of all participants, he thanked SRUC and AHDB for hosting the conference and for providing an excellent meeting programme and facilities. He also acknowledged Marco Winters, Chief of the Local Organising Committee, and Mike Coffey, Programme Committee Chair, for contributing to the success of this important event and thereby strengthening ICAR's position as a global provider of standards for livestock data through networking, guidelines and certification.



General Assembly

4.1 FROM THE ICAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Under the chairmanship of the ICAR President Hans Wilmlink, the General Assembly took place in Edinburgh (Scotland, UK) on Wednesday 14 June 2017. The General Assembly received the President's report on the activities of the association since the last General Assembly, with special reference to the group's progress/updates, ICAR services, and new projects. Under the chairmanship of Brian van Doormal, the DNA WG is working on accreditation protocols for DNA interpretation centres as a prerequisite for the implementation of the GenoEx-PSE project.

The newly formed Certificate of Quality Expert Advisory Group has appointed Juho Kyntaja as Chair. The field validation of ID devices as an ICAR new service for Competent Authorities has been implemented this year. Also in 2017 some 43 laboratories participated in ICAR's Milk Analysis Proficiency Testing (PT). In June 2017 the new certification scheme for Milk Analysis Laboratory equipment was announced. The new initiatives include the Sensor Task Force and the redesign of the structure and platform for the maintenance of and access to the ICAR Guidelines.



A picture from the ICAR General Assembly.

Renewal of the Board

4.2 BOARD MEMBERS BEVIN HARRIS AND JAPIE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN ARE RENEWED FOR THEIR SECOND MANDATE

The ICAR General Assembly re-elected Bevin Harris (New Zealand) and Japie van der Westhuizen (South Africa) as members of the ICAR Board for the period of four years.



Bevin Harris and Japie van der Westhuizen (South Africa) renewed as members of the ICAR Board for a new 4-years mandate.

Statutes

4.3 NEW ICAR STATUTES

The new ICAR Statutes approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly held on 14 June 2017 in Edinburgh defines ICAR as the leading global provider of guidelines, standards and certification for animal identification, animal recording and animal evaluation. The new statutes brings some changes in the management structure such as the abolishment of the Executive Board, thus enabling full participation of all members of the board in the decision-making process. The full text of the statutes is available at www.icar.org.

Distinguished Service Award

4.4 ERIC REHBEN RECEIVED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Hans Wilmink, the President of ICAR, presented the ICAR Distinguished Service Award at the General Assembly to Eric Rehben from France, in recognition of his longstanding involvement in ICAR activities, including his 11 years as chair of the Animal Data Exchange Working Group.



Eric Rehben awarded with the Distinguished Service Award

CoQ

4.5 CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

National Milk Record plc (UK) and Holstein UK received the ICAR Certificate of Quality at the General Assembly held on 14 June 2017 in Edinburgh. The ICAR Secretariat informed the GA that 10 ICAR members applied for a consultative review to be undertaken during the current year.



The CoQ delivered to Holstein UK and to National Milk Record, both from UK

Guidelines Project

4.6 GUIDELINES PROJECT

The goal with the "Quick Wins" is to make the Guidelines easier to access and use. In summary, the actions the Secretariat have taken in the last month are to:

1. Break the current guidelines into a series of separate PDF files generated from MS Word originals.
2. Merge and split some of the current Sections. Section 2 has been split into three Sections: 02 Dairy Cattle Milk Recording, 16 Sheep & Goat Milk Recording, 17 Buffalo Milk Recording, and Section 8 (fertility reporting) has been merged into Section 6 (AI and ET data).
3. Associate all annexes with the relevant Section.
4. Provide hyperlinks to forms and annexes available elsewhere on the ICAR website and remove any associated duplication.
5. Apply a new standard MS Word template including ICAR branding and automatic generation of bookmarks in the resulting PDF file.
6. Include bookmarks and hyperlinks in each PDF to make navigation easier and faster.
7. Include table of contents, and summary of changes in each Section.
8. Add captions to tables, figures, equations and diagrams in selected Sections. Include lists of Tables, Figures, Equations and Diagrams under Table of Contents.

9. Replace the old Section 2 with the new one including the two related procedures. This is the model we plan for future revisions of existing Sections and for any new Section.
10. Section 8 is currently not included. We will wait for CoQ (Certificate of Quality) Guidelines to fill this slot.
11. A series of edits to simplify headings and remove redundant text.
12. Create a webpage for navigating the guidelines - this is, in effect, the table of contents at a high level.

This new 'simplified' version of the ICAR Guidelines will be sent to all members in early October. Upon receipt we welcome all your feedback. (Please note that we have made no attempt to update the content of the guidelines as part of this first phase). Phase two of the Guidelines project will commence in Quarter 4 2017. This second phase will be focused on providing the infrastructure to support the maintenance of the ICAR Guidelines..

News from the groups

ID SC: Jo Quigley new chair

Interbull SC

New regulations

5.0 NEWS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

5.1 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE: JOANNE QUIGLEY NEW CHAIR OF THE GROUP

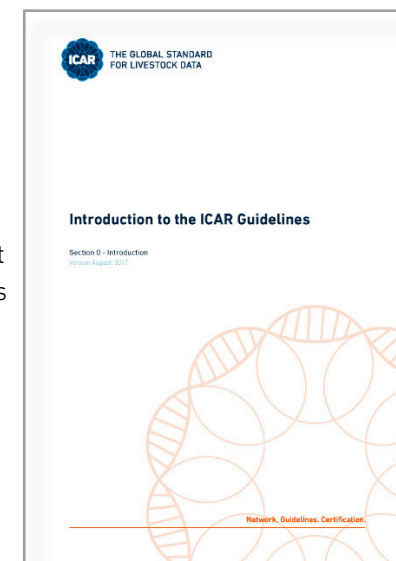
ICAR advises that there is a new Chair of the ICAR Animal Identification Sub-Committee: Jo Quigley. Jo, a current member of the SC, is the Chief Operating Officer of Integrity Systems Company Ltd, Australia. She was previously Manager of the Integrated Production Systems of Meat and Livestock Australia.

Integrity Systems Company delivers the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) and the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). LPA, the Australian red meat industry's on-farm assurance programme provides an assurance of the safety of red meat grown by Australia's producers, while the NVD provides the platform for the transfer of information and the NLIS system supports the identification and traceability of cattle, sheep and goats through the value chain. Jo is bringing into the ID SC her vast experience in the infrastructure of animal identification and her proven management and leadership capabilities.

5.2 INTERBULL SUB-COMMITTEE

5.2.1 NEW ANIMAL BREEDING REGULATION

As a result of the new Animal Breeding Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/1012), the European Commission issued a call for the selection and designation of this European Union Reference Centre (EUREC) in January 2017.



Joanne Quigley new Chair of the
Animal Identification Sub-Committee

Following an application, review and selection process, the Swedish proposal by the Swedish Board of Agriculture (Jordbruksverket) and the Interbull Centre (Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)) was selected: the Interbull Centre shall assume its role as the EURC on 1 November 2018, at the same time as the new EU Animal Breeding Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/1012) shall come into force. Until that time, the Interbull Centre will continue its current role as EU Reference Body for Zootechnics (Bovine Breeding).

The team at the Interbull Centre is proud to have produced such a good application, and looks forward to continuing to work with the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG Sante). We wish to thank the European Commission, ICAR, Interbull, SLU and Jordbruksverket for their support and the trust they have placed in the Interbull Centre's activities and capabilities.

European Union Reference Centre

5.2.2 INTERBULL CENTRE DESIGNATED AS EUROPEAN UNION REFERENCE CENTRE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2018

The European Commission's decision to designate the Interbull Centre as the European Union Reference Centre for the "scientific and technical contribution to the harmonisation and improvement of the methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species" was published in the Official Journal of the European Union Issue L204/78, 5.8.2017.

Interbull meeting in Tallinn

5.2.3 2017 INTERBULL MEETING IN TALLINN, ESTONIA

The 2017 Interbull Meeting was held in conjunction with the 68th meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP). The Interbull Technical Committee, Steering Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee met on 25 and 27 August. The Interbull Open Meeting and Business Meetings were held on 26-27 August, while on 28 August two joint Interbull-EAAP scientific sessions were organised. The open and joint meetings addressed:

1. the impact of genomic pre-selection on N-GES and I-GES (MACE)
2. the model choice and validation of GES in the genomic era
3. the integration of new phenotypes/initiatives into (inter)national genetic/genomic evaluations
4. managing genetic diversity in cattle in the era of genomic selection



'Recognition and thank you for Marjorie Faust for 8-year Interbull SC membership'

5. genetic defects in cattle – identification, finding the mutation and managing it in breeding plans.

The 2016-2017 Interbull Centre Activity Report and Financial Report were presented to more than 100 participants from 28 countries. These reports are available at www.interbull.org/ib/itbcreports.

Presentations are available online for the Business Meeting (www.interbull.org/ib/bm_tallinn_2017) and the Open Meeting and joint session (www.interbull.org/ib/presentation_tallinn_2017).

Steering Committee

5.2.4 INTERBULL GOVERNANCE AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

During the Interbull Business Meeting on 27 August 2017, the following four candidates were proposed as Interbull Steering Committee members:

- Matthew Shaffer (Australia; SC member since 2016, representing Oceania)
- Marija Klopčič (Slovenia; SC member since 2014, representing East European countries)
- Brian van Doormaal (Canada, SC member since 1996, one of two representatives for North America)
- Gordon Doak (USA, new SC member, one of two representatives for North America).

The proposed candidates were endorsed by the Interbull Business Meeting, and subsequently also by the ICAR Board at its meeting on 29 August 2017.

Gordon Doak will replace Marjorie Faust, who has been a valued SC member since 2009, and who has been instrumental in establishing the Interbull Annual Meetings in conjunction with the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA). We would like to thank Marjorie for her contributions and we welcome Gordon to the SC.

5.2.5 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SERVICES

Interbull continues the developments of a range of new services, including the following:

- The Interbull Centre and a number of countries that are not involved in one of the two large consortia continue to investigate the potential of an international genomic evaluation through **InterGenomics-Holstein**.
- Both **GenoEx-PSE** and the **ICAR Accreditation of DNA Data Interpretation Centres** have made significant developments. Both are in the testing stages in preparation for their anticipated launches.



Meeting of the Chairs and Board held in Edinburgh during the ICAR Conference.



Picture from the Interbull meeting held in August in Tallin (Estonia).

New services

- The technical processes to exchange genetic traits for Holstein cattle in collaboration with WHFF have been implemented at the Interbull Centre. Discussions on the principles and processes that will need to be established before the service can be launched are ongoing.

Annual meetings

5.2.6 INTERBULL ANNUAL MEETINGS

- 2018, Auckland, New Zealand (with ICAR & WCGALP): 10-12 February 2018. The latest information on the 2018 Interbull Annual Meeting is available [here](#). This includes detailed information on the programme, themes and descriptions for the Interbull Open Meeting.

Registration for the 2018 ICAR, WCGALP and Interbull meetings is available at www.icar2018.nz and www.wcgalp.com/wcgalp18.

- 2019, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA (with ADSA): 22-24 June 2018
- 2020, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands (with ICAR): Interbull Meeting dates to be confirmed
- 2021, Davos, Switzerland (with EAAP): 28-30 August 2021

Functional Traits WG

5.3 FUNCTIONAL TRAITS WORKING GROUP (FT WG)

Claw health issue

5.3.1 CONTINUATION OF CLAW HEALTH ISSUES

In recent months the ICAR FT WG continued to focus on claw health issues. After publication of the harmonised descriptions of claw disorders in the ICAR Claw Health Atlas, the group has reviewed and summarised the genetics of claw health traits.

An invited review has been submitted to the Journal of Dairy Science, and a presentation was given at the EAAP Congress 2017 in Tallinn on 28 August. A summary of the most important aspects of the implementation of a genetic evaluation of claw health traits will be included in the new ICAR



Guidelines. The group organised a meeting on claw health in Edinburgh on 12 June 2017, during which the definitions and recommendations for data validation and the use of hoof trimming data for herd management and benchmarking were addressed. Issues such as the definition of cows at risk and a new case of a claw disorder will be further discussed with claw health experts in a meeting in conjunction with the Conference on Lameness in Ruminants in Munich, Germany, in September 2017.



Udder health meeting

5.3.2 MEETING ON UDDER HEALTH IN EDINBURGH

At the ICAR Conference in Edinburgh, the group also organised a meeting on udder health on 13 June 2017. Recent research activities and results relevant for improving udder health were presented by experts from several countries. The presentations are available in the ICAR website at: www.icar.org/index.php/technical-bodies/working-groups/functional-traits-working-group/udder-health-meeting-edinburgh-june-2017.

The update of the ICAR Guidelines on udder health is progressing. Further contributions are welcome and should be sent to John Cole (at the following email: john.cole@ars.usda.gov).

ICAR FT WG and IDF Standing Committee

5.3.3 AGREEMENT ICAR FT WG AND IDF STANDING COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Based on an agreement between IDF and ICAR to begin cooperating around recommendations on animal welfare, representatives of the ICAR FT WG and the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare met in Edinburgh on 13 June 2017. IDF is working on behalf of the global dairy sector with the aim of collecting global information on animal welfare practices, filling possible gaps in the OIE and ISO standards and providing recommendations on animal welfare to the worldwide dairy sector. The aim of the cooperation with ICAR is to cover the dairy chain from the beginning. ICAR has expertise on data collection at an individual animal and farm level, with a focus on recording and setting standards for trait definitions. The collaboration between the ICAR FT WG and IDF aims to avoid overlaps in the work and maximise synergies.



Artificial Insemination & RT WG

5.4 ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP: ITS OBJECTIVES

The ICAR Board approved new terms of reference of the Artificial Insemination and Related Technologies WG and defined its objectives. They include maintaining, updating and promoting universal guidelines for recording data associated with artificial breeding (for both male and female gametes, primarily in cattle) and their use in assessing reproductive success. The WG will conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys relating to the recording of artificial breeding data and its use in assessing reproductive success. It will also identify services that can be provided by Service ICAR and stimulate and facilitate international collaboration.

DCMR WG

5.5 DAIRY CATTLE MILK RECORDING WORKING GROUP (DCMR WG)

Karl Zottl and Japie van der
Westhuizen acknowledged

5.5.1 APPRECIATION FOR KARL ZOTTL AND JAPIE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Following the promotions of Karl Zottl (Austria) – new CEO at Nö Genetik Rinderzuchtverband – and Japie van der Westhuizen (South Africa) – new CEO at SA Stud Book – both members unfortunately had to leave the group. The working group would like to thank both Karl and Japie for their great work and wish them all the best for their future careers. Karl and Japie have been replaced by Danuta Radzio (Poland) and Franz Josef Auer (Austria). Both colleagues have been fully integrated into the group and have been delegated their own specific tasks. Franz Josef will replace Karl on the Sensor Device Task Force.



Projects

5.5.2 PROJECTS OF THE GROUP

In addition to continuously improving and updating content, much effort has been put into making the guidelines as clear and as easy to use as possible. The group has several new ideas, as well as practical improvements and proposals for discussion.

Recalculation of the Peeters and Galesloot method will be a priority going forward. Results from initial research, especially dealing with accuracy, were discussed in the meeting in Scotland. The topic will be discussed further at the ad-hoc group meeting (limited attendance) in Prague and later by the group as a whole. The final outcomes will be presented at the next ICAR Conference in New Zealand.

The group's 'plausibility checks' project will be of particular benefit to practice in several countries. Following distribution of the questionnaire, a

paper detailing the results of the project will also be presented in New Zealand.

Also of practical benefit will be the group's project on 24-hour and accumulated milk yield calculations. The project should support and help with changes to the relevant section in the guidelines. The project should be completed in time for the ICAR Congress in Prague 2019.

Other ongoing projects include the recalculation of the Liu (2000) method (to be completed and presented at the ICAR Congress in Prague).

Breed Association WG

5.6 BREED ASSOCIATION WORKING GROUP

The Breed Association WG met in Edinburgh with a small number of interested parties. The WG plans to represent Breed World Bodies at ICAR and attempt to bring these World Bodies together; discussing subjects that may be threats or opportunities to Breed Societies.

The current actions are to decide upon the membership of the WG, review the Terms of Reference and the scope of the WG, and discuss areas such as genomics, SNP parentage and discovery, animal identification, networking and outreach, ICAR Guidelines, traceability, legal responsibilities, and herd book guidelines etc. Whilst discussing these areas, it is very important that the WG does not overlap with other ICAR or industry groups, thus avoiding duplications of effort.

At the ICAR Conference in Auckland, there will be a session dedicated to the many aspects of interest of the WG. If you can offer a paper for the workshop on Sunday 11 February in the afternoon titled ' Implications of recent developments for Breed Associations', please contact suzanne1harding@me.com or brian@icar.com.



ADE WG

5.7 ANIMAL DATA EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP (ADE WG)

The ICAR ADE WG most recently met during the ICAR Conference in Edinburgh. The focus of the meeting was to define a plan that would cover further development of the standards, and also a direction that would lead to achieving greater adoption of the ADE standards. The meeting time was split between an open and closed session. During the open session, 23 representatives from various organisations and companies were present to receive an update on the current status of the ADE WG and were given the opportunity to provide input into some of the adoption challenges we have experienced. As a result, the following key items were identified:

- The work completed to date has been comprehensive and some organisations have used it as a template for internal development.
- The data dictionary has been deemed to be a valuable component of the ADE WG standards and needs continued development.

- The work that has been completed to date is not widely known; more effort needs to be made on sharing the standards and accomplishments with others in the industry.

Since the meeting, the working group has met via teleconference. We have solicited new members, which will help us to further develop the technical standards and define the actions and steps needed to make the ADE standards more widely known in the industry. Next steps will focus on bringing these new members up to speed and implementing the items identified above.

Next ICAR Conferences

2018 In Auckland (NZ)

6.0 2018 AND 2019 ICAR CONFERENCES

6.1 7-11 FEBRUARY 2018, AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

The combined ICAR Annual Conference and Interbull Annual Meeting brings together the leading scientists in animal recording, measurement, and genetic evaluation from up to 59 countries. It is expected to be a showcase for new technologies and developments in these areas. In combining with the World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP), delegates will get the full package across numerous species – from parentage verification to genotyping to phenotyping to genetic evaluation.

The registration process (available [here](#)) and the call for papers (available [here](#)) are now open and the selection procedures for the achievement of a consistent scientific programme have already begun.



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA
Annual Conference
ICAR2018.NZ

7 – 11 February 2018
Aotea Centre
Auckland,
New Zealand



2019 in Prague (CZ)

6.2 17-21 JUNE 2019, PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)

The Local Committee advises that the 2019 Annual Conference in Prague will be organised from 17 to 21 June, in conjunction with IDF/ISO.

