



**Group Report for the Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group**

<b>Date of report</b>	15.1.2018	
<b>SC/WG/TF/ name</b>	Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Pavel Bucek (bucek@cmsch.cz)</b>	
<b>Members (names)</b>	Pavel Bucek (Czech Republic) Franz Josef Auer (Austria) Xavier Bourrigan (France) Kevin Haase (USA) Kai Kuwan (Germany) Juho Kyntäjä (Finland) Yaniv Lavon (Israel) Filippo Miglior (Canada) Danuta Radzio (Poland) Friedrich Reinhardt (Germany) Carlos Trejo Jimene (Chile)	
<b>Members left since June 2017</b>	There have been no changes to membership since the last ICAR meeting in Scotland in 2017. The chairman of the working group would like to thank all members for their enthusiastic efforts on behalf of the group.	
<b>Meeting(s) since June 2017</b>	<p><u>Last:</u></p> <p>The last working group activity report summarised meetings that had taken place up until 23/5/2017.</p> <p>This report summarises meetings that have taken place since 23/5/2017 and includes all meetings until 15/01/2018.</p> <p><b>The key priority for the working group was to complete and publish the new version of the ICAR Guidelines for routine use by ICAR members.</b></p>	<p><u>Next:</u></p> <p><b><u>Future meetings as of January 2018 – subject to change</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face meeting in New Zealand taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.</li> <li>• Franz Josef Auer will continue his work with the Sensors Task Force and represent our working group at their meetings.</li> <li>• Ad-hoc group meeting in Paris. Date TBC.</li> <li>• As there is a long interval between New Zealand and Prague, a two-day meeting will take place in Rome. Date TBC.</li> <li>• Regular videoconferences and meetings of the whole working group, the ad-hoc group and individual meetings</li> </ul>

	<p><b><u>Ad-hoc group videoconferences and other individual videoconferences between the chairman and individual members</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12.7.2017</li> <li>• 12.7.2017</li> <li>• 19.7.2017</li> <li>• 26.7.2017</li> <li>• 28.7.2017</li> <li>• 7.8.2017</li> <li>• 15.8.2017</li> <li>• 12.9.2017</li> <li>• 12.9.2017</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Whole working group videoconferences</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.10.2017</li> <li>• 4.10.2017</li> <li>• 29.11.2017</li> <li>• 30.11.2017</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Face-to-face meetings of the whole working group and ad-hoc group face-to-face meetings</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.6.2017 Scotland (ICAR 2017), meeting of the whole working group</li> <li>• 16.10.2017 Prague (Czech Republic), ad-hoc group meeting</li> <li>• 17.10.2017 Hradistko (Czech Republic), ad-hoc group meeting</li> <li>• 18.10.2017 Hradistko (Czech Republic), ad-hoc group meeting</li> </ul>	<p>between the chairman and individual members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WG future plans to be discussed at the whole working group meeting in New Zealand – future schedule to be updated according to member needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priorities addressed since June 2017 (last report)</b></p>	<p>This overview summarises the group’s priorities, key projects and main points for discussion. It also includes key points from the discussion of ad-hoc group meetings and individual discussions between the chairman and individual members.</p> <p><b><u>The key priority was to complete the new version of the ICAR Guidelines – Section 02 (Cattle Milk Recording) After the ICAR meeting in Scotland our key tasks were to finish editing the guidelines, finalise all discussion during this phase and prepare a version for publication and routine use. The new</u></b></p>	

**guidelines were published in October 2017. The chairman would like to thank all members, the ICAR Secretariat (particularly Brian Wickham and Cesare Mosconi) and the external experts who provided their feedback during the preparations.**

**Plausibility checks project involving 25 organisations**

The working group is committed to monitoring global developments and updating the ICAR Guidelines. A total of 25 organisations were recruited for a plausibility checks project, focusing on key plausibility checks used by ICAR members. Based on the analysis it seems likely that some of the results will be incorporated into the ICAR Guidelines.

**In the short term we will need to improve the 24-hour calculations section of the ICAR Guidelines (Procedure 1 - Computing 24-Hour Yield). The following are on-going projects and will continue after New Zealand.**

**Research on the Galesloot method:** This research is now complete and the results are available. The results will be discussed among the working group and then new recommendations drafted for the ICAR Guidelines (Procedure 1 - Computing 24-Hour Yields). We will next move to the implementation phase.

**Calculations project:** Monitoring key areas, particularly the needs of ICAR members and milk recording organisations. The group discussed the possibility of mounting a project on today's industry looking at future visions and challenges. Both questionnaires could be merged. A decision will be made regarding the second project in New Zealand or after.

**Research and recalculation of the Liu method:** This research will help to improve the ICAR Guidelines. It is an on-going project. The group will be updated during the meeting in New Zealand and preliminary results are expected to be unveiled there. It is due to be completed by summer 2018.

**Discuss adaptation of the Liu method as a replacement for sampling scheme Z (milkings from all milkings and sample alternates).**

**The design for the new version of Procedure 1 had been discussed with a focus on general structure, key points and new items for inclusion. It should be much more practical in design.**

**A priority is to resolve specific problems with 24-hour calculations (e.g. missing and interrupted milkings using AMS, etc.).**

**Practical aspects related to evaluating new methods and recalculations.**

**Work will commence on finding connections between milk yields and health traits.** Previously discussed during the ad-hoc group meeting and to a limited extent before that.

**There was also discussion on big data and practical examples of incorporating connections between milk yields and health traits in Israel were given during the ad-hoc group meeting in**

	<p><b>Prague.</b> The future direction of the project will be addressed in New Zealand and afterwards.</p> <p><b>Open general discussion – plans for ICAR 2019 in Prague.</b></p> <p><b>The working group’s representative on the Sensors Task Force is Franz Josef Auer.</b></p> <p><b>Some members of the group are also members of the ICAR Expert Advisory Group</b> and have been involved in preparing a new version of the ICAR Certificate of Quality for cattle MR auditing. Their involvement is set to continue.</p>
<p><b>Priorities for next year</b></p>	<p><b>Brief overview – subject to change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the 24-hour calculations project and present the results in Prague. The survey will cover statistical and technical aspects and collate the opinions and needs of ICAR members. This is an on-going project from the period before the New Zealand conference and is due to be completed in Prague.</li> <li>• Work on improvements to 24-hour calculations in the ICAR Guidelines.</li> <li>• Incorporate results from the plausibility checks projects.</li> <li>• Quality management in milk recording.</li> <li>• Connection between milk yields and health traits.</li> <li>• New technologies and services in cattle milk recording.</li> <li>• Specific aspects of daily milk recording.</li> <li>• Organise a technical session for ICAR 2019.</li> <li>• Organise a practical workshop for ICAR 2019.</li> <li>• Individual projects from WG members will focus on specific aspects of milk recording and/or new services – all to be presented in Prague. Details TBC.</li> <li>• Roundtable on “Industry today: future visions and challenges” for ICAR 2019. This will be discussed in detail and is expected to involve other WGs, subcommittees and/or external experts. A final decision will be made after the New Zealand conference. Decision TBC.</li> <li>• Discussion on individual lactation qualification.</li> <li>• AMS calculation in Germany.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Issues which the Group wishes ICAR Board to consider</b></p>	<p><b><i>As previously mentioned, the board will be informed that the WG is going to organise a technical session and workshop in Prague as well as a possible roundtable.</i></b></p> <p><b>We are interested in organising the following three events in Prague:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical session.</li> <li>• Practical workshop.</li> <li>• Roundtable with the title: “Our industry today: future visions and challenges”. This will be discussed in detail and is expected to involve other WGs, subcommittees and/or external experts. A final decision will be made after the New Zealand conference. Decision TBC.</li> </ul>



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