



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Minutes of the meeting of the ICAR Sheep, Goats and Camelids Working Group

16 February 2022 h. 9.00 – 11.00

Participants

- Antonello Carta
- Elena Ciani
- Jean- Michel Astruc
- Joanne Conington
- Kevin McDermott
- Marco Antonini
- Marija Špehar
- Mauro Fioretti
- Mojca Simcic
- Cesare Mosconi
- Sharon McIntyre

Apologies: Eva Ugarte

MINUTES

1. AGENDA

- Results from the questionnaire on wool
 - Presentation (Marija Špehar)
 - Follow-up (all)
- Proposition of recommendations on European wool collection and promotion centers
 - Presentation (Marco Antonini)
 - Follow-up (all)

2. QUESTIONNAIRE ON WOOL and FOLLOW-UP

Questionnaire on wool was closed in June 2020. Marija Špehar accepted during the last meeting in 2021 to take in charge the valorisation of the survey. Marija presented slides on the survey which happens to be very rich in terms of information on the traits and on the genetic valorisation.

Main comments on the presentation

- 3 countries have a double answer:
 - New Zealand: Sharon said that the complete one was the answer from Sharon. Remove the line from LIC which is partial.
 - Portugal: remove the one from INIAV which is very partial



- South Africa: both answers are complete. Ask Japie van der Westhuizen how to handle both.
- Check if Australia could be more complete. See with Sheep Genetics
- Check if Bulgaria is relevant or not within these results (population 10)
- The slides are very informative because they gather all the information. Just add what is in breeds 6 to 10, in traits 6 to 10 and in subindex 6 to 10. Marija said that there were few information. If there are, gather them in breed/trait/subindex 5 to 10 (same slide for 5 to 10).
- Apart from the previous comments (and possibly checkings), there is no need to complete the survey right now. However, within 2 years, it should be interesting to survey again, including new countries (even if there not in ICAR membership): ex. Turkey, ...

Follow-up

First batch of deliverable:

1. Marija will propose an **abstract to ICAR Canada** to present the survey. This will result in a presentation and a paper.
2. The **slides presented today** (with some updated edits maybe) should be **edited as a document to be sent to the respondents**, so that they have feedback on their inputs and may correct or make suggestions.

Second batch of deliverable:

3. **ICAR guidelines.**
 - There are enough data to produce a draft. Marija, Mojca, Sharon and Jean-Michel volunteer to participate to the draft writing. Daniel Brown would be useful.
 - These guidelines can evolve and be amended in the future with new inputs. We use them as a first version, not definitive.
 - The template that might be followed is the following:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Link to results of the survey
 - c. Definition, terminology, rationale
 - d. Scope
 - e. **Trait definition, data recording and validation**
 - Definition, method, unit, etc
 - Computation of elaborate trait
 - f. Organisation of the recording scheme, including idea on price of devices. For this point, ask the main stakeholders (Uruguay, Australia, NZ, South Africa)
 - g. **Use for genetic evaluation (transformation of the data, genetic parameters, models, considerations for use in selection).**
 - h. Use for flock/herd management (if relevant)
 - i. Acknowledgements, references, annexes
 - Share of the work to be done quite quickly. **We could focus in a first time on the point e and g.**

We must check (and be helped on that by Australian and Kiwis colleagues) if recommendations on methods already exist, in order to avoid useless overlapping (and put a link to those recommendations)



3. WOOL MANAGEMENT (TERRITORIES, FARMERS, WOOL COLLECTION AND PROMOTION CENTERS)

This point is presented by Marco Antonini who produced a first document (attached to these minutes).

The section on wool collection and promotion center is written. The sections on territories and farmers should be written.

We had a discussion on the relevance of including such recommendations in ICAR guidelines, with regards to ICAR scope and perspectives. Mainly because it is out of the performance recording scope. The decision is to include it in the section on wool performance recording, either as a subsection or an appendix. Because it can constitute a model or a template for non-Merino (mainly European) wool industry sector, in order to improve the value of wool (and make wool become a resource and no longer a problem for the breeders) and create a dynamic and an added-value that could result in development of recording for genetic improvement of better flock management.

Follow-up

1. The WG reviews the document sent by Marco.
2. Marco takes into account the updates and comments, and write the missing sections.

Joanne sent a link of the UK grading system for non-Merino sheep (<https://www.britishwool.org.uk/grading>). This could help writing these guidelines.

4. NEXT MEETINGS

- ICAR meeting in Montreal (format – presence or hybrid or remote - not decided yet) on May 30 to June 3, 2022
- WG meeting on Tuesday, May 31 in the morning (8.30-12.30)
- Session “New developments in Sheep, Goat and Camelids within ICAR”: Thursday, probably on May 2