



THE GLOBAL STANDARD  
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

# Terms of Reference for the ICAR Interbeef Working Group

Version November, 2022

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

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## 1 Background

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the ICAR Interbeef Working Group (Interbeef-WG).

These revised ToR have been approved by ICAR Board at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November of 2022.

## 2 Context

The DNA-WG is one element of ICAR's Group structure as elaborated [here](#) on the ICAR website. As a working group:

- a. It is a permanent,
- b. Its chair is appointed by the Board of ICAR,
- c. Its members are appointed by the Chief Executive of ICAR,
- d. It is responsible for policy relating to services to members.

The main purpose of the Interbeef-WG is to achieve a number of objectives related specifically to recording and genetic evaluation for beef cattle breeds and beef cattle traits.

## 3 Objectives of the Interbeef-WG

The objectives of the Interbeef-WG are to:

- a. Provide a forum for members of ICAR to collaborate, exchange information and learn from each other on all aspects of recording and genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits of relevance to beef production.
- b. Maintain, update, promote and extend universal guidelines for the recording of performance and other data relevant to beef production world wide
- c. Conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys of beef recording and genetic evaluations.
- d. Develop, provide and promote a system and standards for routine international genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits which will form the basis of the service that the Interbull Centre will provide to members of ICAR on a user-pays basis.
- e. Facilitate and co-ordinate international collaboration in research and development on the utilisation of genomic information in beef cattle breeding.

## 4 Governance

The Interbeef-WG will comprise a Chairperson appointed by the ICAR Board and members appointed by the ICAR Chief Executive. The term of membership and voting rights of members will be determined at the time of appointment and may be reviewed from time to time.

All ICAR Group members are required to comply with the most recent version of ICAR's Conflicts of Interest Policy as [here](#).

Membership of the Interbeef-WG will comprise members who cover some or all, depending on the level of interest and participation in ICAR activities, of the following interests:

- a. Geographical regions: Europe (West and East), North America, South & Central America, Asia, Africa & Oceania.
- b. Beef Technical: Data recording & Genetic Evaluations.
- c. Supporters of ICAR Participation in Beef: Interbeef WG, Former Beef WG, Interbull Sub-Committee.

The Steering Committee, may from time to time, create advisory committees to provide specialist and expert advice on topics of relevance to achieving the objectives of the WG, with approval from the ICAR Board.

## 5 Chair duties

- a. Group Composition – in consultation with ICAR Secretariat and ICAR Board ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- b. Business and Group Meetings – takes initiative for dates, agenda and minutes in consultation with Secretariat. Organise at least two meetings per year, 3 to 4 meetings per year are recommended.
- c. Coordinate relationships with other ICAR groups (see paragraph 8). Have awareness of activities going on in other groups.
- d. Group activities - in consultation with the group members, establish priorities with agreed duties of group members and agreed deliverables and timescale. Accomplishment of the tasks in time and activities leading to a satisfactory outcome.
- e. Communications with the ICAR Board. See paragraph 7.

## 6 Secretariat

The Secretariat will be provided by the Interbull Centre as part of the services it provides to ICAR under the direction of the Interbeef-WG.

Role of Interbeef Secretariat:

- a. Business Meetings - agree dates and venues in consultation with Chairperson, provide notice of meetings to members, agree agenda with Chairperson, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree minutes with Chairperson, and distribute minutes.
- b. WG Composition - maintain list of WG members with up-to-date contact details, in consultation with Chairperson and ICAR Board ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- c. WG Meetings - agree dates and venues in consultation with Chairperson, provide notice of meetings to members, agree agenda with Chairperson, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree minutes with Chairperson, and distribute minutes.
- d. Website - maintain website and forum ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.

- e. Interbull Centre - keep the WG informed about all developments and relevant issues affecting the services provided by Interbull Centre.

## 7 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Annual report of the Interbeef-WG Chairperson to the Board.
- b. The ICAR Staff support person as identified from time to time by the ICAR Chief Executive. All communications for the Group are to be copied to this person.
- c. Participation of the Chairperson in meetings with the Board, normally on an annual basis coinciding with the ICAR Annual Meetings.

## 8 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups

Relationships between Interbeef-WG and other ICAR Groups are as summarised in *Table 1*.

*Table 1. Relationship with other ICAR Groups and other institutions.*

Group	Purpose of Relationship	Method of maintaining relationship
Interbull Sub Committee (IB-SC)	Ensure ICAR standards, guidelines and services relating to genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits are consistent with those for dairy cattle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By providing leadership for genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits.</li> <li>• Overlapping membership.</li> <li>• Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.</li> <li>• Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden.</li> </ul>
DNA Working Group (DNA-WG)	Ensure ICAR standards, guidelines and services relating to DNA technologies are best practice for beef cattle breeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overlapping membership.</li> <li>• Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.</li> <li>• Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden.</li> </ul>
Breed Associations Working Group (BA-WG)	Ensure ICAR standards, guidelines and services relating to beef breeds and traits are best practice for Breed Associations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overlapping membership.</li> <li>• Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.</li> </ul>
Others	Ensure any other standards, guidelines and services involving a recording or sampling device are developed using a shared ICAR philosophy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective communication of plans and progress.</li> <li>• Overlapping membership as needed.</li> <li>• Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.</li> </ul>

## 9 Priorities

Priorities are to be established by the Interbeef-WG taking account of its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board.

The priorities for F&G-WG in the next year can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Priorities for F&G-WG in 2023.

Priority	Description
1	Service Improvements : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genomics Task Force =&gt; Routine service, based on single step genomic evaluations (2 times/year “full” evaluations + monthly based on DGV’s).</li> <li>• Interbeef Information Exchange =&gt; sharing data for better services.</li> <li>• ICAR/Interbeef/BIF guideline WG =&gt; joint guidelines with BIF.</li> </ul>
2	Evaluation Improvements : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation procedures at the national &amp; international level.</li> </ul>
3	New Interbeef evaluations for : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carcass traits, including earlier age at slaughter (with IRL).</li> <li>• Female fertility (with DEU).</li> </ul>