



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

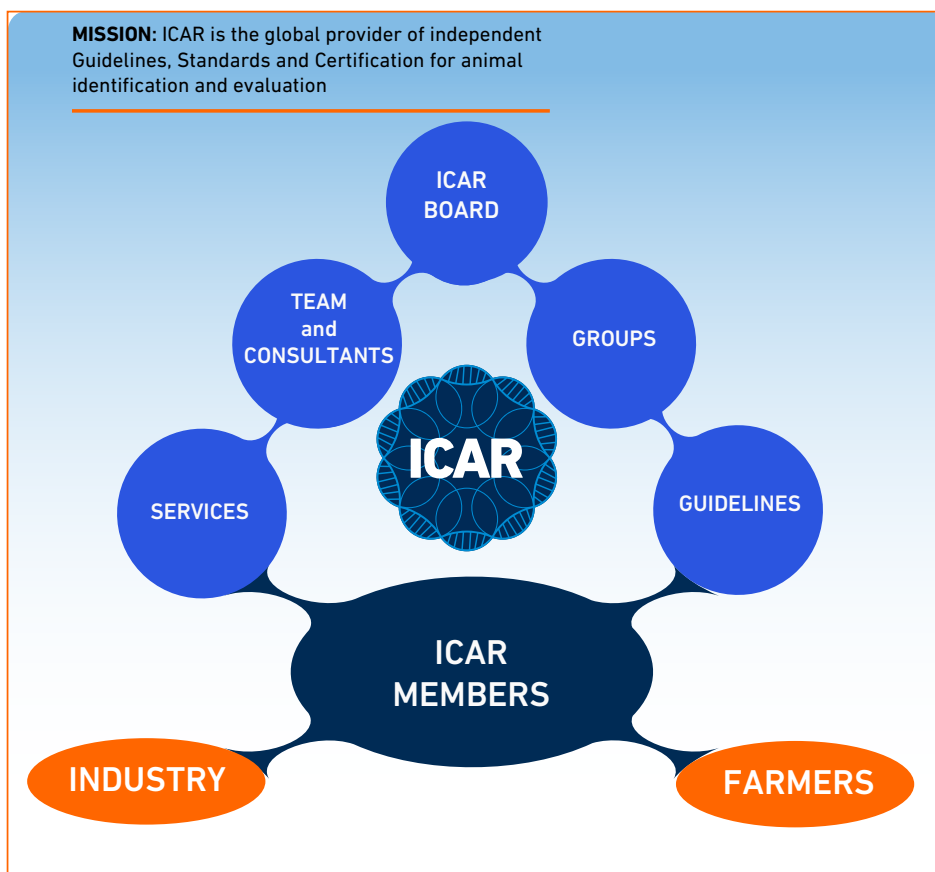
Network. Guidelines. Certification.

ICAR 2025 COMMITTEES and GROUPS ACTIVITY REPORT

Activities of the ICAR groups in 2025 and recognition to the
members of the Groups



ICAR activities have been made possible by the voluntary work of the members of the Sub-Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups and by the active support of their organisations which is gratefully acknowledged



How ICAR processes and executes its tasks

SUB-COMMITTEES

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SC

The activities performed in 2025 were:

- Assisting in the design of performance requirements for UHF technology.
- Collaboration with ISO Working Group 3.
- Completed Procedure 6 and Code of Conduct of Guidelines Section 10.
- Reviewing third party requests for ICAR certificationq.

In 2026, the following future actions are planned:

- Ongoing dialogue with governments regarding ICAR certification requirements for national identification programs.

- Reviewing UHF technology and the implementation of appropriate testing to ensure necessary performance for animal identification.
- Certifying an additional laboratory to conduct tag testing for ICAR certification.
- Design training materials for competent authorities and manufacturers regarding ICAR certification procedures.

COMPOSITION

- Ken Evers, International Livestock Identification Specialist / Consultant, Australia (INTERIM CHAIRPERSON)
- Dean Bellingham, Agriculture Victoria, Dept. of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Australia

- Kaivo Ilves, Eesti Põllumajandusloomade Jõudluskontrolli AS, Estonia
- Norbert Wirtz, Bundesverband Rind und Schwein e.V. (German Livestock Association), Germany
- Othón Reynoso Campos, SINIGA, Sistema Nacional de Identificación Individual de Ganado en México, Mexico
- Paul Laronde, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canada
- Pedro Vieira, DGAV, Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária, Portugal
- Salvador Ronda, S. Inform. Agrarios Y Pesqueros / G.Sist.Inf. Agrarios Y Pesquer Grupo Tragsa - SEPI, Spain
- Sebastien Duroy, IDELE, France
- Valentina Palucci, Interbull Centre, SLU, Sweden

INTERBULL SC

The major achievements in 2025 for the Interbull SC were:

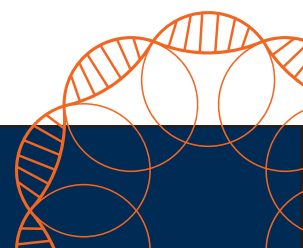
- New Chair, new Vice-Chair and new Members of the Interbull Sub-Committee.
- Proceedings of the 2025 Interbull Annual Meeting published in Interbull Bulletin No. 61 (November 2025) journal.interbull.org.
- Drafted ToR for Beef on Dairy Task Force.
- All Interbull evaluations delivered as scheduled.
- Expanded use of Genotype Data Exchange Platform (GenoEx.org).

In 2026 the following points will receive the necessary attention:

- Priorities published in the Annual Operational Plan 2026.
- New Strategic Plan (2027-2029).
- Address financial challenges.
- "Females in MACE": 1) Ayrshire, 2) Guernsey.
- Collaborations with other ICAR Groups: Interbeef, Feed&Gas (Methane DB); Conformation; Sheep, Goats and Camelids

COMPOSITION

- Urs Schnyder, Qualitas AG, Switzerland (CHAIRPERSON)
- Carolina Markey, Växa, Sweden
- Daniele Vicario, ANAPRI, Associazione Nazionale Allevatori Bovini di razza Pezza Rossa Italia, Italy
- Ezequiel Luis Nicolazzi, CDCB, Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, USA
- Filippo Miglior, Lactanet, Canada (VICE-CHAIRPERSON)
- Gerben de Jong, Coöperatie Koninklijke CRV u.a., The Netherlands
- Laurent Journaux, France Génétique Elevage, France
- Sebastian Mucha, PFHBiPM, Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers, Poland
- Thuy Nguyen, DataGene, Australia





MILK ANALYSIS SC

The major achievements in 2025 of the MA SC were the following:

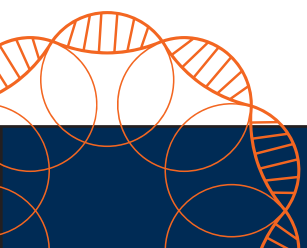
- ExtraMIR FA (and methane) updates.
- Communications regarding the involvement of countries' experts, welcoming young generation members (especially for the BWYPEX program), colleagues that wish joining our meetings as observers.
- Examination of ICAR certification related to Milk Analyses.
- Final revision of the ICAR Guidelines (Section 12) vs received feedback and comments. Guidelines are now published.
- Review and edit the ICAR Guidelines where necessary.

In 2026, the MA SC will work on:

- Achieve Progress towards the completion of ExtraMIR FA.
- Participation to ICAR sensor validation / certification, particularly when milk analyses are involved.
- Organize a MA SC meeting to share BWYPEX experience with Maria Frizzarin and Amélie Vanlierde.

COMPOSITION

- Josee Bordeleau, Lactanet, Canada (CHAIRPERSON)
- Amel Guellouz, Laboratoire de Contrôle Laitier, Sidi Thabet, Directorate of Genetic Improvement (OEP), Tunisia
- Anne-Sofie Ladekjær-Mikkelsen, Eurofins Milk Testing Denmark A/S, Denmark
- Dalia Riaukiene, Pieno Tyrimai, State Laboratory for Milk Control, Lithuania
- Dena Snidall, CIS, Cattle Information Service, United Kingdom
- Elezbieta Rybicka, Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers, Poland
- Frederic Dehareng, Laboratory of milk analysis of the Valorisation of Agricultural Products, Department of Agricultural products of Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, Belgium
- Hélène Soyeurt, Liège Université– Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Belgium
- Janette Mathie, CIS, Cattle Information Service, United Kingdom
- Malia Caputo, CDCB; Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, USA



- Maria Alejandra Rodriguez, INTI, Dirección de Metrología Química, Argentina
- Michael Whittaker, CIS, The Cattle Information Service, UK
- Muril Niebuhr, DFA, USA
- Philippe Trossat, ACTALIA / ACTILAIT / CECALAIT, France
- Ruben de Vries, Qlip B.V., The Netherlands
- Wenke Friedrichs, Milchkontroll und Rinderzuchtverband eG, Germany

MEASURING RECORDING AND SAMPLING DEVICES SC

In 2025 the MRSD SC has been working on: :

- Meeting with 19 devices or systems manufacturers.
- ICAR validated logo; revised brand policy.
- Validation of the first system completed.
- Zoom meetings in April and June 2025.
- Manufacturer webinar in April 2025.
- Member webinar in April 2025.
- TC Centre Meeting June 2025 in Zutphen.
- Synchronisation of new Section 12 of the Guidelines with Section 11.

In 2026, the MRSD SC will focus its attention on:

- Relaunching of the ICAR "Reference ID project".
- ICAR web site updates.
- Reviewing of needs and strategic planning.

COMPOSITION

- Steven Sievert, National DHIA & DHIA Services, USA (CHAIRPERSON)
- Alain Gastebled, IDELE, France
- Angie Lockwood, NMR, National Milk Records, UK
- Hubert Rothfuss, LKV Weser-Ems e.V., Germany
- Janette Mathie, Cattle Information Service, CIS, UK
- Jonas Persson, SEGES Innovation P/S, Denmark
- Kirsi Leppikorpi, ProAgria Keski-Pohjanmaa / Association of ProAgria Centres, Finland
- Lorenzo Pascarella, Milking Control Service at Italian breeding Association (AIA), Italy
- Peter Huijsmans, Qlip, The Netherlands
- Thomas Denninger, Swiss Herdbook, Switzerland

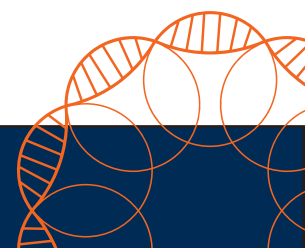
TASK FORCE

BEEF ON DAIRY TF

The Beef TF has been created in 2025 and it will begin its activity in 2026.

COMPOSITION

- Martino Cassandro, Fedana/ANAFIBJ, Italy (CHAIRPERSON)





WORKING GROUPS

ANIMAL DATA EXCHANGE WG

In 2026, the ADE has been working on:

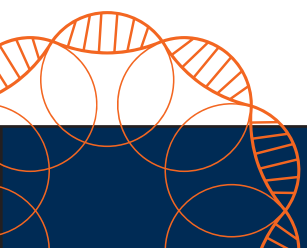
- An ICAR ADE Workshop in May 2025, resulting in very good attendance with over 300 participants.
- Committee member meetings in October 2025, January and April of 2026.
- Roll out of ADE v 1.5.

In 2025, the ADE WG had great collaborations with:

- ICAR-IDF sensor initiative: Robert Fourdraine has participated in meetings and provided input regarding sensor data exchange.
- AgGateway: Cathy Meyers has participated in AgGateway meetings and provided ICAR ADE input
- ISO TC 347: Andrew Cooke has participated in meetings when available.
- Digi4Live: ICAR ADE efforts have been coordinated through Silvia Orlandini.
- Proposal to hire a FT/PT Coordinator to support ICAR ADE outreach efforts.

COMPOSITION

- Jasper Van Der Noord, Uniform Agri, The Netherlands (CHAIRPERSON, CO-CHAIRING)
- Robert Fourdraine, Dairy Record Management Systems (DRMS), USA (CHAIRPERSON, CO-CHAIRING)
- Alexey Shelepaev, Mtech Digital Solutions Oy, Finland
- Andrew Cooke, Rezare Systems Ltd., New Zealand
- Cathy Myers, Amelikor, USA
- David Saunier, France Conseil Elevage, France
- Dennis Le, Datagene, Australia
- Liliana Fadul, Lactanet, Canada
- James Donovan, Datamars, Switzerland
- Jennifer Cline, Valley Agricultural Software, Inc., USA
- Johannes Frandsen, SEGES, Denmark
- Maarten Moleman, Nedap Livestock Management, The Netherlands
- Mark Doornink, Parnell Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, USA
- Martin Schnare, GEA Farm Technologies GmbH, Germany
- Mary Phelan, MSD Data Labs, Ireland
- Michael Lynch, ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation), Ireland



- Richard van Hoorne, Lely, The Netherlands
- Sven Schierenbeck, VIT, Germany
- Valerija Volcic, iDDEN, Germany

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND R.T WG

In 2025 the AI & RT worked on:

- Organisation of Bull Semen Proficiency Test.
- Participation to the AI VETS 2025, Budapest, Hungary.
- Traceability and the standardization of the straw ID.
- Participation to the NAAB Technical Conference, September 2026, Madison.

COMPOSITION

The following Institutions are warmly acknowledged for supporting the WG:

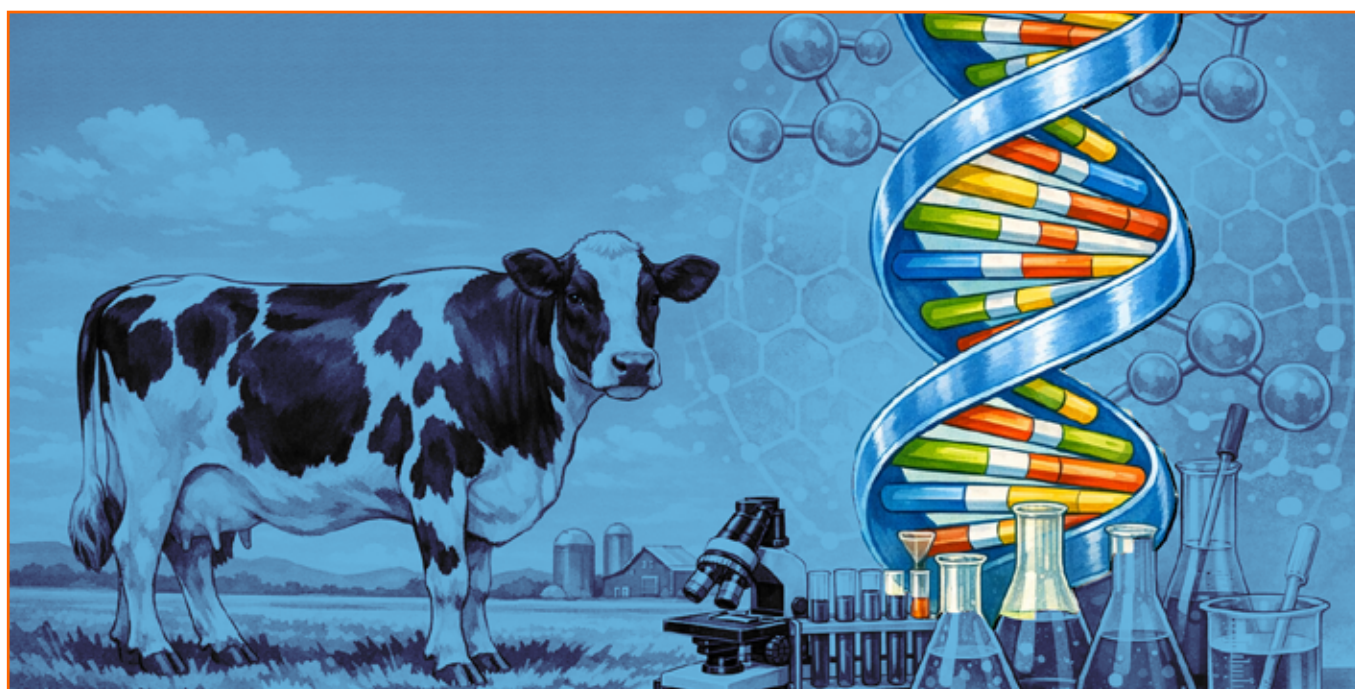
- Marleen Broekhuijse, CRV, The Netherlands (CHAIRPERSON)
- CSS (subsidiary of NAAB, National Association of Animal Breeders), USA
- Eliance, France
- FABA, Finland
- Geno SA, Norway
- INSEME spa, Italy
- Landwirtschaftskammer Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

- LIC, New Zealand
- Rinder-Union West eG, Germany
- School of Life and Environmental Sciences (SOLES), Australia
- Sigmas, Latvia
- Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, India

BEEF WG

The Beef WG, redesigned from the previous Interbeef WG, had in 2025 the following activities:

- New Chair: Kim Matthews, AHDB (UK).
- First Interbeef Evaluations User Group meeting held 18 September 2025.
- Development of the on ToR for Beef-on-Dairy Task Force.
- Refined operation of Beef Working Group and finalised governance.
- Established links with other relevant ICAR groups for the beef industry such as the Conformation WG and the DNA WG.
- Maintenance of ICAR Guidelines Section 3: Beef Cattle Recording.
- A financial support from ICAR would accelerate the development of a multi-breed genomic evaluation, delivering major benefits to Interbeef users and for Beef-on-Dairy systems.



COMPOSITION

- Kim Matthews, AHDB, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, UK (CHAIRPERSON)
- Andrea Bassini, AIA, Associazione Italiana Allevatori, Italy
- Andrea Quaglia, ANAFBIJ, Italy
- Anne Menrath, Fachbereich Zucht und Genetik, Germany
- Elisenda Rius, Vaxa, Sweden
- Haifa Spittorff, Nordic Cattle Genetic Evaluation
- Japie van der Westhuizen, South African Stud Book and Animal Improvement Association, South Africa
- Jo Newton, Agriculture Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Australia
- Kamil Malat, ČSCHMS, Czech Rep.
- Klemen Potocnik, Biotehniška fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia
- Kristine Adama, Lauku atbalsta dienests, Latvia
- Laurent Griffon, Institut de l'Elevage, France
- Mart Uba, Eesti Põllumajandusloomade Jõudluskontrolli AS, Estonia
- Martino Cassandro, Fedana/ANAFIBJ, Italy
- Pedro Santos Vaz, Aberdeen-Angus Portugal, Portugal
- Ross Evans, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF), Ireland
- Siri Furre, TYR, Norway
- Steven Miller, Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU), UNE, Australia
- Svenja Strasser, Mutterkuh Schweiz, Switzerland

CONFORMATION RECORDING WG

In 2025, the CR WG met virtually four times (June, September, January and April 2026). The group focussed on:

- Implementation of new/update list of conformation defects, including pictures and definition for dairy, dual purpose and beef cattle.
- Development of list with description of dairy goat conformation traits.
- Development of list conformation traits meat sheep.
- Work on reviewing beef cattle conformation list.





In 2026, the group is expecting to:

- Finalise the list with traits for dairy and meat sheep.
- Finish review beef cattle trait list.
- Determine relation between front and rear teat length: same trait?

The group is also collaborating with:

- Interbeef on defining conformation traits.
- Functional traits WG on BCS.
- Interbull for extending list of conformation traits in MACE evaluation.
- Finalisation of the Guidelines on Cattle conformation defect list while Guidelines on “List of Sheep conformation traits” and the “Update of Beef Cattle conformation traits” are under finalisation

COMPOSITION

- Gerben De Jong, Coöperatie Koninklijke CRV u.a., The Netherlands (CHAIRPERSON)
- Elia Tavernier, IDELE, France
- Jeffrey Bewley, Holstein Association, USA
- Mathijs van Pelt, Coöperative CRV u.a., The Netherlands
- Tamás Sebok, Hungarian Holstein Association, Hungary
- Timothée Neuenschwander, Holstein Switzerland, Switzerland

DAIRY CATTLE MILK RECORDING WG

In 2025, the DCMR WG finalised different chapters of its Guidelines such as:

- The new lactation yield calculation in suckling cow/calve herds.
- The update on flexible sampling system.
- A new correction factors for AMS of Bavaria.
- The approval of Slovenian AT Method.
- The inventorizing auditor practices on implementation of ICAR methods.
- The Guidelines for milk recording on smallholder farms.

Active cooperation exists with:

- ICAR Animal Data Exchange WG.
- Functional traits on the ICAR / IDF project on sensors for welfare/healthIC.

COMPOSITION

- Miel Hostens, Cornell University, Department of Animal Science, USA (CHAIRPERSON)
- Asha Miles, Dairy Records Management Systems, USA
- Betka Logar, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Slovenia
- Carlos Trejo Jimene, Consultant, Chile
- Franz Josef Auer, LKV Austria Gemeinnützige GmbH, Austria
- Kai Kuwan, Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V., Germany
- Sujit Saha, National Dairy Development Board, India





- Xavier Bourrigan, IDELE, France
- Yaniv Lavon, Israel Cattle Breeders' Association (ICBA), Israel

DNA WG

In 2025 the DNA WG:

- Finalised the 2025 Laboratory Certifications.
- Finalise the PD service for Data Interpretation Certification center.

Collaborations exist with:

- The ICAR Sub-Committee on the Guidelines for Animal Identification for tissue sampling devices specifically with the view of DNA labs.
- International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG); Sheep, Goat & Camelid WG; Beef WG

In 2026, the DNA WG will:

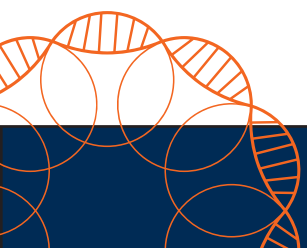
- Extend certification services to species other than bovine.
- Standardise the Genetic Disease, in conjunction with WHFF & BWYPEX candidate.
- Explore the ICAR certification for sequence based technologies.
- Explore alternatives to ISAG ring tests.
- Select the SNPs for Parentage Discovery (PD) for *Bos Indicus*.
- Updating of Section 04 of the Guidelines on DNA Technology
- Production of the Guidelines for SNP Parentage using SNP Chip data sets

Existing cooperation with other groups includes:

- The Animal Identification on Guidelines for tissue sampling devices, specifically with the view of DNA labs.; International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG); Sheep, Goat & Camelid WG; Beef WG

COMPOSITION

- Romy Morrin-O'Donnell, Weatherbys Scientific, Ireland (CHAIRPERSON)
- André Eggen, AgriGenomics, EMEA, Illumina France SARL, France
- Cecilia Fontana, Laboratorio Genetica e Servizi (LGS), Associazione Italiana Allevatori (AIA), Italy
- Ezequiel Luis Nicolazzi, CDCB, Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, USA
- Jiansheng Qiu, Neogen Genomics Operations, USA
- Johan De Meulemeester, Merck Animal Health Intelligence, USA
- Katrine Haugaard, Interbull Centre, SLU, Sweden
- Lucía Borreguero Escribano, Central Veterinary Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain
- Marta Gozdek, Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers, Poland
- Matthew McClure, ABS-Global, USA
- Nilesh Nayee, NDDDB, National Dairy Development Board, India
- Suzanne Harding, World Holstein Federation, UK



FEED AND GAS WG

In 2025, the F&G WG took care of the:

- Updating the wiki guidelines for methane emission
- Collaboration with Global Methane Genetics:
 - Development of SOP for sniffer
 - Methane Device test center
- Feed&Gas Workshop at the International Greenhouse Gas & Animal Agriculture Conference, Oct 2025, Kenya.
- Mentoring of BWYPEP fellows Sarah-Joe Burn, Fazel Almasi, and Michael Aldridge.

The collaboration with other WG produced the:

- Updating of the guidelines for methane for sheep in collaboration with the small ruminants group
- Close connection with Global Methane Genetics regarding global methane data base, methane device test center, SOP development for sniffer
- Connection with other groups on adoption & incentivization of genetic selection as methane mitigation tool

COMPOSITION

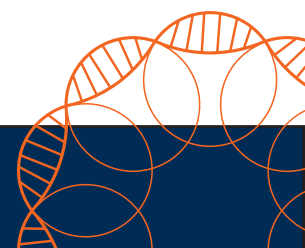
- Birgit Gredler-Grandl, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands (CHAIRPERSON)

- Caeli Richardson, AbacusBio International, UK
- Christine Baes, Department of Animal Bioscience | University of Guelph, Canada
- Jan Lassen, Viking Genetics, Denmark
- Jennie Pryce, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Australia
- Karoline Bakke, Geno, Norway
- Lorenzo Benzoni, ANAFIBJ, Associazione Nazionale Allevatori della Razza Frisona, Bruna e Jersey Italiana, Italy
- Maria Frizzarin, Agroscope, Switzerland
- Nina Krattenmacher, University Kiel, Germany
- Raffaella Finocchiaro, ANAFIBJ, Italy
- Rasmus Bak Stephansen, Aarhus University, Denmark

FUNCTIONAL TRAITS WG

Actions in 2025 included:

- Elaboration of guidelines on "Sensor based behaviour information for functional traits with focus on rumination" in collaboration with IDF SCAHW and experts.
- Presentation of ICAR IDF Sensor Initiative at various conferences (ADSA, EAAP, WDS and ECPLF).



- A new chapter for the Guidelines on “Body condition score”.
- New Guidelines for metabolics (with Eurogenomics). To be developed in 2026.

COMPOSITION

- Christa Egger-Danner, ZuchtData EDV-Dienstleistungen GmbH, Austria (CHAIRPERSON)
- Andrew John Bradley, Quality Milk Management Services Ltd, United Kingdom
- Bjørg Heringstad, Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences / Geno , Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
- Elsa Vasseur, McGill, Canada
- Jennie Pryce, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Australia
- John B. Cole, Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, USA
- Kathrin Friederike Stock, VIT - Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V., Germany
- Luiz Brito, College of Agriculture, Purdue University, Department of Animal Sciences - Room 2016, USA
- Marie Haskell, Scotland's Rural College, UK
- Melissa Stephen, LIC, Livestock Improvement Corporation, New Zealand
- Nicolas Gengler, Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques de Gembloux (FUSAGx), Unité de Zootechnie, Belgium

- Pauline Martin, INRAE, France

SHEEP, GOATS AND SMALL CAMELIDS WG

In 2025, the SGC WG:

- Developed Guidelines for resilience traits in small ruminants: a new Wiki section 24 “Recording resilience in sheep and goats” was produced.
- Set up a questionnaire on genotyping activities in sheep and goats.
- Sheep GenoEx generated by Interbull Centre within the ARDI2 project. Might be useful for ICAR sheep and goats, too.
- BWYPEX Michael Aldridge on methane and feed efficiency in sheep. Co-mentoring SGC & Feed&Gas WGs.
- Guidelines on “Conformation trait in sheep” driven by Conformation WG (Gerben de Jong).
- Participation of experts of the SGC-WG. Goat: finalised. Sheep: on-going with 2 sub-groups (meat and dairy).

Some upcoming actions for 2026 include:

- EU Reference Centre in sheep and goats to reactivate. To be discussed in Verona.
- Presentation of the survey on genotyping activities



Cooperation with other groups includes:

- Cooperation with Feed & Gas (Guidelines on methane and feed efficiency); DNA WG (sheep GenoEx, parentage verification and discovery), Conformation WG (expertise on sheep conformation).
- Planning an EU Reference Centre in sheep and goats
- Guidelines on methane and feed efficiency production
- Conformation traits Guidelines: expertise from SGC WG
- Guidelines on methane and feed efficiency (with Feed & Gas WG)

COMPOSITION

- Jean-Michel Astruc, Institut de l'Elevage (IDELE), France (CHAIRPERSON)
- Antonello Carta, AGRIS Sardegna, Italy
- Carlos Iglesias Pastrana, Department of Genetics, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, University of Córdoba, Spain
- Daniel Brown, Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, Australia
- Elena Ciani, Department of General and Environmental Physiology, Italy
- Eva Ugarte, NEIKER, Spain
- Hasan Alhaddad, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science, Kuwait University, Khalydiya campus, Kuwait
- Marco Antonini, ENEA secondment at the University of Camerino, Italy

- Marija Spehar, Hrvatska agencija za poljoprivredu i hranu (Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food), Croatia
- Mauro Fioretti, AIA, Italy
- Mojca Simčič, University of Ljubljana Biotechnical faculty Department of Animal Science, Slovenia
- Nicola Lambe, SRUC, UK
- Pamela Burger, Financial Department Vetmeduni Vienna, Austria
- Seán Godfrey, Sheep Ireland, Ireland
- Sharon McIntyre, Beef and Lamb NZ Genetics, New Zealand

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP FOR COQ

In Verona, the EAG is planning to:

- Enhance the effectiveness of the ICAR CoQ questionnaire, KPIs
- Plan the new platform for CoQ service
- Optimize the CoQ process time
- Coordinate the audits and the consultative reviews

For the 2027, the EAG is focussed on

- Involving more Expert Auditors
- Enhance the effectiveness of the ICAR CoQ questionnaire, KPIs
- Plan a new platform for CoQ service
- Optimize the CoQ process time

