



## THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

### ICAR Insights: December 2023

ExtraM IR  
webinar on  
12 Dec.

The global abundance of equations derived from Fourier Transform Mid Infrared (FT-MIR) spectra introduces complexities in comparing predictions based on these equations. Consequently, establishing meaningful international-level comparisons poses a significant challenge and underscores a pressing need.

A pivotal initiative within the framework of the ICAR/DF ExtraM IR project involves creating a web platform housing the first World Representative Spectral Database. This platform aims to facilitate the development of common and independent calibration sets. These sets will be instrumental in crafting equations that extract pertinent information, enabling stakeholders to predict outcomes effectively.

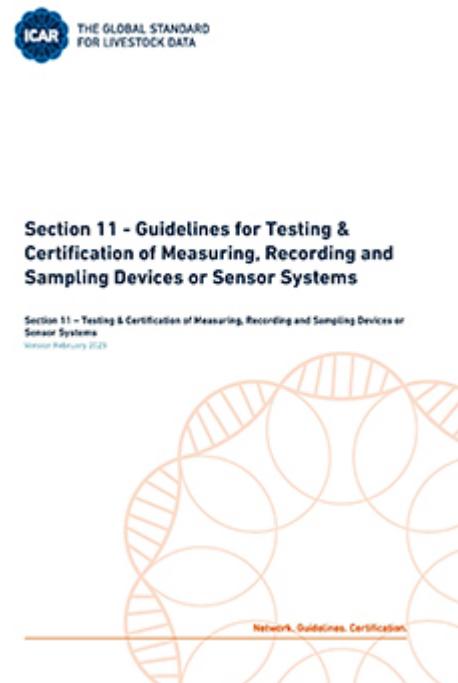
Video and slides have been made available

More info [here >>](#)



<p><b>BW YPEX webinar on 14 Dec.</b></p>	<p>On 14 December, the first of the Brian Wickham Young Person EX2 Series webinars showcasing the findings of each recipient of the BW YPEX was organised.</p> <p>The growing use of beef sires in the dairy herd is a major disruption impacting beef and dairy sectors globally. The role of genetics in supporting the integration of the beef and dairy sectors was the focus on a recent global study tour.</p> <p>Over a 10 week period, Dr Jo Newton OAM, a research scientist with Agriculture Victoria, Australia, conducted over 85 interviews with stakeholders in the beef and dairy supply chain to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capture trends in use of beef genetics in the dairy herd;</li> <li>• build understanding of the needs of future genetic improvement programs;</li> <li>• identify the requirements to success in models/programs that are delivering greater beef from dairy integration;</li> <li>• provide recommendations on how to promote greater dairy-beef integration; and</li> <li>• identify opportunities for collaboration.</li> </ul> <p>In this webinar Dr Jo Newton hosted Dr Katharina Schödl to present the key findings from the project followed by a Q&amp;A session.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	 <p><b>BRIAN WICKHAM YOUNG PERSON'S EX<sup>2</sup> SERIES</b></p> <p>14 DECEMBER 2023 6:10AM PARIS TIME (CET)</p> <p>REGISTRATION</p> <p>Participation to the webinar is upon registration at: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dqKlerUpNzjDNTqBiljCA">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dqKlerUpNzjDNTqBiljCA</a></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p> <p>The growing use of beef sires in the dairy herd is a major disruption impacting beef and dairy sectors globally. The role of genetics in supporting the integration of the beef and dairy sectors was the focus on a recent global study tour. Over a 10 week period, Dr Jo Newton OAM, a research scientist with Agriculture Victoria, Australia, conducted over 85 interviews with stakeholders in the beef and dairy supply chain to: (i) capture trends in use of beef genetics in the dairy herd; (ii) build understanding of the needs of future genetic improvement programs; (iii) identify the requirements to success in models/programs that are delivering greater beef from dairy integration; (iv) provide recommendations on how to promote greater dairy-beef integration; and (v) identify opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p>In this webinar Dr Jo Newton will be hosted by Dr Katharina Schödl to present the key findings from the project followed by a Q&amp;A session.</p> <p>The use of beef genetics in the dairy herd was identified as a priority research area by the International Committee on Animal Recording (ICAR) and assigned as a topic for the inaugural Brian Wickham Young Person Exchange Program. This webinar is the first in the Brian Wickham Young Person EX2 Series showcasing the findings of each recipient.</p> <p>Workshop announcement • <a href="http://www.icar.org">www.icar.org</a></p>
<p><b>Toledo Annual Conference</b></p>	<p>The Secretariat finds the material produced for the Toledo Annual Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPT presentations</li> <li>• Pictures</li> </ul>	 <p><b>ICAR 2023 TOLEDO SPAIN</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video of the key stakeholders in the animal identification community talk about the value they see in the ICAR certification</li> <li>• Video of the experience of some National Competent Authorities and why the ICAR certification is an extra value for them</li> </ul> <p>At the beginning of January the Proceedings of the Annual Conference will be published in the ICAR website.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
<p><b>Launch of GenoEx in Feb. 2024</b></p>	<p>ICAR anticipates that in February the GenoEx Parentage Verification service will be launched.</p> <p>The main purpose of Genotype Exchange Parentage SNP Exchange (GenoEx-PSE) database is to provide a service for exchanging standardized sets of SNP for genotyped animals to facilitate parentage analysis activities carried out by authorized service users of the GenoEx-PSE service that are responsible and/or active in parentage integrity.</p> <p>Information will be circulated in the next weeks</p>	

<p>Launched the 2024 PT from ilk laboratories</p>	<p>As occurred in the previous years, ICAR launched the 2024 Proficiency Test from ilk laboratories.</p> <p>The participation in ICAR proficiency test will comply with analytical quality assurance requirements ISO 17025 and with the system of Certification of Quality implemented by ICAR from 2006 including a recognition of the competence of laboratories and, more widely, of analytical systems in ICAR member organizations that requires regular PT participation with international anchorage. ICAR PT is ISO 17043 certified.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
<p>Edited Guidelines for Section 11 (Measuring, Recording and Sampling Devices)</p>	<p>The ICAR guidelines for Measuring, Recording and Sampling Devices (Section 11) have been updated recently. The guidelines are restructured into 14 procedures, including 5 chapters as:</p> <p>Overview &amp; General Processes, Device Testing &amp; Certification, System Testing &amp; Validation, Best Practices and Annual Reporting.</p> <p>Main changes to the Section 11 of the Guidelines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of ICAR validation for device and sensor systems. ICAR validation includes several aspects like definition of the measurement principle, evaluation of accuracy of measuring components of the sensor system, evaluation of the animal system and linkage to measurements, evaluation of the data handling etc.</li> <li>• Separation of sheep and goats into distinct species. New tolerances for dairy sheep to reflect modern genetics.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum weight and sample delivery for cows. Previously 25 ml milk at 2 kg yield / now 25 ml milk at 5 kg yield.</li> <li>Evaluation of carry-over potential in devices. Report will include physical evaluation, not quantification. MRSD-SC will develop testing procedure.</li> <li>Clarity on testing of AMS and sampling trays. Clear guidelines on number of farms, boxes and sampler required. Guidelines allow for testing of in-line sensor system with AMS provided the system delivers a representative sample.</li> </ul> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
2024 DNA accreditation finalised	<p>The 2024 accreditation round for the DNA accreditations ("SNP-based genotyping accreditation" and "STR Microsatellite-based parentage testing accreditation") has been finalised. All the applicant laboratories met the ICAR Standards and 16 laboratories granted the ICAR accreditation.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
Passing of our dear friend, Brian Wicksell	<p>It is with heavy hearts that we received the news of the passing of our dear friend, Brian Wicksell.</p> <p>Brian left us on the night of August 19th. His departure leaves a void that will be deeply felt by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him.</p>	

	<p>Brian was a person of remarkable talents, possessing a keen acuity of vision and an unparalleled ability for synthesis and innovation.</p> <p>His contributions to the ICAR community were invaluable, and his legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come, being also CE in-charge for a couple of years, from 2014 to 2016.</p> <p>We will remember Brian for his exceptional intellect, his warm personality, and his unwavering dedication to progress.</p> <p>In addition to his professional achievements, Brian was a loving husband to Alison and a devoted father to a son and a daughter, Hadley and Charlotte.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
<p><b>Two videos from stakeholders on ICAR ID certifications</b></p>	<p>Two videos presenting the advantages of the ICAR certification of ID devices have been produced, presenting the point of views of manufacturers and of the National Patent Authorities.</p> <p>Identification devices tested and certified against globally recognized high quality standards, are a guarantee for high performance and safety in animal farming. The importance of the ICAR Guidelines is key in the development and operation of national and international identification systems. Both manufacturers and patent authorities agree on ICAR's unique role in providing the desired standards, services, and networking opportunities, taking full advantage of what ICAR delivers towards a safe, efficient, and sustainable global animal production.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	

<p>New ICAR Members</p>	<p>Valley Agricultural Software, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA, Topcon Agriculture Srl (Italy) and Farm Trace (The Netherlands) join ICAR as a New Associate Member while Dairy Farmers Association of the Republic of Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) join ICAR as a new Full Member.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	 <p>MEMBER</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>The 2023 awards were given to personalities for their contribution given to ICAR and to the animal production sector (Andrew Cromie and Martin Burke have been awarded by the President's Award while Elena Couto has been awarded by the Outstanding Contribution Award).</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	

<p>New Chair for the MA SC</p>	<p>The ICAR Board endorsed Josée Bordeleau, Lactanet (Canada), as the new Chairperson of the Milk Analysis SC. To Josée goes the best wishes of the ICAR community.</p> <p>More info <a href="#">here &gt;&gt;</a></p>	
<p>Acknowledgments to Martin Burke and Welcome to Marie Agnes Mouroet</p>	<p>The ICAR community extends its sincere appreciation to Martin Burke, who retired from ICAR CE in June. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to him for success in his new endeavours and future initiatives.</p> <p>Simultaneously, we extend a warm welcome to Marie Agnes Mouroet, who succeeds Martin and has been appointed as the new ICAR CE. Serving for almost 15 years as CFO/COO for a membership global organization founded in 1947 composed by market researchers, professionals representing the industry, focus on data analytics data insights, Marie Agnes has played a pivotal role in making strategic decisions, showcasing her innovative nature and unwavering dedication.</p> <p>In just six months, Marie Agnes has introduced fresh, innovative ideas and consistently sought ways to enhance ICAR's role. Consequently, ICAR is undergoing a transformative period in</p>	

	<p>recent months and the ones to follow, positioning itself as a premier organization in animal production.</p>	
Best season's greetings	<p>The ICAR Secretariat is feeling festive and wants to share some joy with our community. We hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy new year, full of laughter, love and learning.</p> <p>Whether you celebrate with a big feast, a cozy fire or a zoom call, we wish you all the best.</p> <p>And don't forget to check out our website for some fun and informative resources on animal reproduction. Cheers!</p>	 <p>A festive Christmas card featuring a snowy mountain landscape with a cabin and a herd of cattle in the foreground. The text "Merry Christmas" is written in a decorative font at the top, and the ICAR logo is in the bottom right corner.</p>