



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Terms of Reference for the ICAR Beef Working Group

Approved on November 2025 by ICAR Board

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

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1 Background

The Interbeef WG has been functioning for many years within the ICAR network, with its activities in recent years mainly focused on the delivery of an International genetic evaluation for beef cattle. A number of Interbeef WG members have withdrawn from the international beef evaluations. In line with the ICAR Interbeef Strategic Roadmap an Interbeef User Group has been established for the ICAR members who continue to participate in the international beef evaluations. To make a clear distinction between the WG and the User Group it has been proposed that the WG be renamed to Beef WG, and that the User Group will continue to use the name 'Interbeef', as this is related to international beef evaluations.

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

These revised ToR have been 1) prepared by the ICAR Chief Executive, the chairperson of Interbeef and Beef WG and the Interbull Centre Director, 2) reviewed by the Beef WG and 3) subsequently been approved by the ICAR Board at its meeting on 3 November 2025.

2 Context

The Beef WG is one element of ICAR's Group structure as elaborated on the ICAR Website. As a working group:

- a. It is permanent,
- b. Its Chairperson 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 beef-related activities.

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

3 Objectives of the Beef WG

The objectives of the Beef 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 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 worldwide.
- c. Conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys of beef recording and genetic evaluations.
- d. Develop, provide and promote standards for performance recording and genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits.

- e. Facilitate and co-ordinate international collaboration in data exchange and research and development on the utilisation of genomic information related to beef cattle breeding.
- f. Provide strategic oversight for the Interbeef Evaluation Service Users Group

4 Governance

The Beef 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](#).

Membership of the Beef 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, data exchange and genetic evaluations.
- c. Supporters of ICAR Participation in Beef.

The Working Group may 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 Chairperson 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. In consultation with the group members, establish priorities with agreed duties of group members and agreed deliverables and timescale.
- e. Delivery of the tasks on time and undertaking activities leading to a satisfactory outcome. f. Communications with the ICAR Board. See paragraph 7.

6 Secretariat

The Secretariat will be provided by ICAR for the Beef WG with with the ICAR secretariat to provide admin support to the chair.

Role of Beef WG 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 this ToR.
- e. e. Interbull Centre - keep the WG informed about all developments and relevant issues affecting the services provided by Interbull Centre.

For the avoidance of doubt the services provided by the Interbull Centre will be governed by the Agreement between ICAR and SLU regarding the Development and Delivery of Genetic Products and Services (signed December 2020) or any subsequent agreement thereof.

7 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Annual report of the Beef WG Chairperson to the Board.
- b. The ICAR Staff support person as identified 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 Beef WG and other ICAR Groups are 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"> • By providing leadership for performance recording and genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits. • Joint expert advisory group(s) or meetings as required. • Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden.
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"> • • Overlapping membership. • • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required. • • Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden.

Group	Purpose of Relationship	Method of maintaining relationship
Interbeef Evaluations User Group	Ensure that services relating to genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits are consistent with the ICAR standards, guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing leadership for performance recording and genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits. • Joint expert advisory group(s) or meetings as required. • Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden. • Overlapping membership.
ICAR Beef-on- Dairy Task Force	Ensure ICAR standards, guidelines and services relating to performance recording and genetic evaluation of Beef-on-Dairy and traits are consistent with those for dairy and beef cattle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (The ICAR Beef-on-Dairy Task Force could be considered an expert advisory group as mentioned above in relation to the Interbull SC.)
Conformation Recording WG (CR WG)	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"> • Effective communication of plans and progress. • Overlapping membership as needed. • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.

9 Priorities

Priorities are to be established by the Beef WG taking account of its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board. The priorities for the Beef WG in the next year can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Priorities for the Beef WG in 2026 [DRAFT].

Priority	Description
1	Finalise governance structure for Beef Working Group and subgroups
2	Strategic priorities in line with the Interbeef Strategic Roadmap.
3	Oversee delivery of non-evaluation services.
4	Review of beef guidelines.