



Beef on Dairy Task Force – Terms of reference (ToR)

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1. Background

The following are the Terms of Reference (ToR) for ICAR's Beef-on-Dairy Task Force (BoD TF).

1.1. ToR Changes

This is the first version of the ToR for the BoD TF.

1.2. General

At the ICAR Board of Directors meeting held on 30 March 2025, it was agreed to establish a Task Force to examine and encourage the production of meat from dairy cattle and their progeny: The Beef-on-Dairy Task Force (BoD TF).

The popularisation of reproductive technologies such as sex sorted semen has increased the use of beef bulls on dairy cattle to improve meat production from the dairy industry. As a result there is an increased interest of different actors from both industries in developing tools that facilitate and improve the delivery of quality calves from the dairy herd into the beef sector. However, this brings with it a series of genetic, nutritional and management challenges.

In July 2023, the BWYPEX awardee Jo Newton delivered her Report on the topic “Beef from Dairy: the role of genetic improvement in integrating our beef and dairy sectors”.

In 2025, the Interbeef Strategic Roadmap included a recommendation to establish a “Beef-on-Dairy Task Force”.

Given this background, ICAR establishes this Task Force focused on promoting and developing guidelines for BoD.

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the BoD TF.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Beef-on-Dairy TF are to:

- Provide a forum for members of ICAR to collaborate, exchange information and learn from each other on all aspects of production, recording and genetic evaluation for Beef-on-Dairy.
- Provide a Strategic Roadmap for the inclusion of Beef-on-Dairy in the suite of ICAR, Interbull and Interbeef portfolio of services

This may involve the need to:

- Address the recommendations of the above-mentioned BWYPEX report.
- Analyse the interests of stakeholders in different industries.
- Determine an initial set of traits to focus on for the development of further guidelines and/or services
- Investigate improvements for the integration of data from the beef and dairy industries.
- Establish procedures for transferring data from large processing centres to a central database.
- Identify opportunities in collaboration with other ICAR Groups
- Identify synergies between dairy and beef activities, that are already present within the ICAR group or provide recommendations for improvements
- Outline the expected benefits.
- Prioritise future (research) needs.

3. Governance and members

The ICAR BoD TF Chair will be appointed by the ICAR Board. The members are appointed based on their expertise and current role in ICAR, Interbull and Interbeef, and ICAR member organisations.

- i. The Task Force will consist of 8-9 ICAR members with knowledge in the field of performance recording, genetics and data exchange, including:
 - a. Supporters of ICAR Participation in Beef-on-Dairy.
 - b. Members of Interbull SC, Beef-WG and Interbeef User Group.
- ii. The term of the Task Force will end at the 2027(?) ICAR meeting.

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

The ICAR BoD TF will answer and report to the ICAR Board.

4. 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 the 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, agreed duties, deliverables, and timescales for the members of the group.
- e. Delivery of the tasks on time and undertaking activities leading to a satisfactory outcome.
- f. Communications with the ICAR Board. See paragraph 7.

5. Secretariat

The Secretariat will be provided by the ICAR Secretariat. Role of Secretariat:

- a. **Administer** - agree on dates and venues in consultation with the BoD TF Chair, provide notice of meetings to members, agree on agenda with Chair, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree on minutes with Chair, and distribute minutes.
- b. **Team Composition** – maintain the list of team members with up-to-date contact details; in consultation with the Chairperson and ICAR General Manager, ensure membership comprises interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- c. **Website** - maintain the website and forum, ensuring content is up to date and relevant according to the ToR.

6. Timeline and priorities

Priorities are to be established by the BoD TF taking account of its terms of reference, and include:

- November 2025: ToR accepted
- June 2026: Present at ICAR - Interbeef - Interbull meetings.
- June 2027: Final report to ICAR. / Present at ICAR Annual Meeting.



7. Communication with the ICAR board

- a. Interim and Final Reports to the ICAR Board at least annually, but in the first year, every 6 months
- a. The ICAR secretariat support person to maintain files in the SharePoint of ICAR

8. Relationship with other ICAR groups

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.	• By providing leadership for performance recording and genetic evaluation of dairy breeds and traits. • Joint expert advisory group(s) or meetings as required. • Sharing expertise of the Interbull Centre at SLU, Sweden.
Beef Working Group	Ensure that services relating to genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits are consistent with the ICAR standards, guidelines.	• By providing leadership for performance recording and genetic evaluation of beef breeds and traits. • Joint expert advisory group(s) or meetings as required. • Overlapping membership.
Other Working Groups	Ensure any other standards, guidelines and services involving a recording or sampling device are developed using a shared ICAR philosophy.	• Effective communication of plans and progress. • Overlapping membership as needed. • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.