



THE GLOBAL STANDARD  
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

# Terms of Reference for the Interbeef Evaluations User Group

Version November, 2025

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

---

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Objectives .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Governance .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Funding .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Chairperson duties .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Secretariat .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Priorities.....</b>	<b>5</b>

## 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 A number of Interbeef WG members have withdrawn from the international beef evaluations.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 Interbeef Evaluations User Group ("Interbeef").

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

## 2 Objectives

The overall objectives of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group are to coordinate and assist ICAR, Interbeef Evaluation Service Users and the Interbull Centre in delivery and development of the international genetic & genomic evaluation of beef cattle ("Interbeef").

## 3 Governance

The Interbeef Service Users Group is one, separate, element of ICAR's Beef Working Group.

- Membership of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group will comprise one person per organisation that is subscribing and paying fees for the provision of International Beef Evaluations ("Interbeef") Services, as provided by the Interbull Centre.
- The term of office of members of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group is four years, and a member may serve multiple terms subject to nomination by the participating organisation and agreement of the Interbeef Chair.
- Membership will cease once the organisation that a member represents is no longer a paying user of the
- Interbeef Evaluation Services provided by Interbull Centre.
- A Chairperson of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group will be elected from and by its members for a 4- year term. The Chairperson can be elected for consecutive terms. The maximum number of terms is 2 (+2 years in exceptional circumstances).
- The Interbeef Evaluation User Group Chair will report to the Beef WG Chair and ultimately the ICAR Board.
- The Interbeef Evaluations User Group should hold at least one face-to-face meeting a year and conduct regular deliberations through electronic and/or audio communication.
- Meetings of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group are held in private.
- The President of ICAR (or ICAR General Manager or his/her delegate) may attend meetings of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group as an observer.

- The Interbull Centre Director attends the Interbeef Evaluations User Group meetings in a consultative and supportive capacity only.

The Interbeef Evaluations User Group may, from time to time, create advisory/technical committees, TFs or WGs to provide specialist and expert advice on topics of relevance to achieving the objectives of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group. Members of such groups do not need to be User Group members.

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

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: all Interbull Centre activities, includes financial and operational oversight, are governed by the ICAR appointed Interbull SC.

## 4 Funding

- a) Specific annual service fees, as identified in the Interbeef Code of Practice, fund the genetic & genomic evaluation services provided by the Interbull Centre, and applied R&D as approved by the Interbeef Evaluations User Group.
- b) The Interbeef Evaluation Service fees -mentioned in 4a) - may be complemented by other sources including grants, recognition as a designated reference centre, etc.
- c) Fees will be set by the ICAR Board having taken account of the views of the Interbeef Evaluations User Group, Interbull SC and Interbull Centre/SLU.

## 5 Chairperson duties

- a) Group Composition – in consultation with Interbull Centre, Beef WG and ICAR ensure membership represents the organisations subscribing and paying for the Interbeef Evaluation Services.
- b) 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 and maintain communication with Beef WG, Interbull SC and Interbull Centre. d) In consultation with the group members, establish priorities with agreed duties of group members and agreed deliverables and timescale.

## 6 Secretariat

The Secretariat will be provided by the Interbull Centre as part of the Interbeef Evaluation services it provides to ICAR. Role of Interbeef Evaluations User Group Secretariat:

- a) 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) User Group 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) Code of Practice - maintain Interbeef Code of Practice, ensuring contents are up-to-date and relevant according to this ToR.
- d) Interbull Centre - keep the User Group informed about all developments and relevant issues affecting the services provided by Interbull Centre.
- e) The Interbull Centre will include in its Annual Operating Plan the relevant Interbeef activities, laying out the expected priorities, work plan and budget, and make this available for consideration by the Interbeef Evaluations User Group. The Interbull Centre will work with the Interbeef Evaluations User Group to ensure alignment of the AOP with its expectations.

## **7 Priorities**

Priorities are to be established by the Interbeef Evaluations User Group taking account of the budget available, Interbull Centre resources, its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board. The priorities for the Interbeef Evaluations User Group will be included in the Interbull Centre Annual Operating Plan