



ICAR Acting Secretary General

Report for ICAR Board Meeting Tuesday 29th July 2014.

Author: Brian Wickham

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1 Priorities

Our priorities are currently:

- Establishing a Schedule for Service ICAR Board Meetings.
- Progressing Recommendation on GENOEX from ICAR Board.
- Clarifying Role of Service ICAR.
- Service Provision
 - Identification Device Testing
 - Recording Device Testing
 - Interbeef

2 Meeting Schedule

It is now appropriate for consideration to be given to the meeting schedule for Service ICAR. My proposal is that the Service ICAR Board meet every second month, one week before the scheduled ICAR Board meeting, in the afternoon CET, say 16:00 to 17:00. On this basis the updated schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2014 and early 2014 is as follows:

Table 1. Future Meetings.

Org'n	Meeting	Date	Start-finish (CET)	Venue	Notes
ICAR	Board	Thursday 28/08/2014	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	Note change from Tuesday to accommodate travel by Brian
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 23/09/2014	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 30/09/2014	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 28/10/2014	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	All day 18/11/2014	8.00-18.00	Rome	No meeting unless the need arises.
ICAR	Board	All day 19/11/2014	8.00-12.00	Rome	No meeting unless the need arises.
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 18/11/2014	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	In Rome if ICAR Board decides to have face-to-face meeting.
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 25/11/2014	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	

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Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 20/01/2015	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 27/01/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 24/02/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 24/03/2015	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 31/03/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
FAO & ICAR	ID Workshop	13/4 - 15/4, 2015	8.00-18.00	Pretoria	ICAR Board not meeting unless the need arises.
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 28/04/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 18/05/2015	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 26/05/2014	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	

3 GENOEX PSE Recommendation from ICAR Board

At its meeting on 29th July the ICAR Board considered a proposal from the Interbull Steering Committee to contribute funding towards the development of the infrastructure required for a Parentage SNP Exchange (PSE) service. The ICAR Board resolved *“that the ICAR Board will strongly recommend the S.I. Council to endorse the proposal and find the best way to account for its funding”*.

I have given this matter considerable thought and have formed the following opinion:

- 1) ICAR owns two organisations that provide fee-paid services: Service ICAR and Interbull. There was, up to when Interbeef Services started to be developed, a clear distinction between the types of service each provides:
 - a) Interbull provides genetic evaluation services on behalf of ICAR through its Service Provider, SLU. SLU maintain financial account for Interbull which is reported to the Interbull Business meetings at which service users have a major say in policy setting. The Interbull Steering Committee, a sub-committee of ICAR, is responsible for technical, operational and administration decisions, including the setting of Interbull service fees.
 - b) Service ICAR provides fee-paid services for all other ICAR service in conjunction with a number of Service Providers (the test centers) and the relevant ICAR Group. The Council (Board) of Service ICAR in conjunction with the relevant ICAR Group (sub-

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committee or working group) is responsible for technical, operational and administration decisions including the setting of service fees.

2) ICAR provides a number of “free” services including:

- a) Parentage Testing Laboratory Certification
- b) Reference Laboratory Network
- c) Benchmark
- d) Patent Sentinel Action Service.

In my view there is no such thing as a “free” service. They all cost and the real question is whether they are included in the membership fee or must be paid by a separate fee, in which case they are not free. My feeling is that not enough thought has been given to this question for some of these services. This point became very clear to me when doing the ICAR team job descriptions and was one of the issues contained in my ASG report for the last ICAR Board meeting. We did not have time to discuss it during the meeting and it must not be neglected.

- 3) With the introduction of the Interbeef Services this (point 1 above) changed as the decision was taken the Secretary General (and I presumed the Board) was to provide beef genetic evaluation services through Service ICAR with SLU as the Service Provider. This means the range of services covered by Interbull was more narrowly defined as genetic evaluations for **dairy** traits and breeds. A service agreement¹ was developed for Interbeef in which this service relationship between Service ICAR, the Interbull Centre at SLU and the Interbeef Working Group was defined.
- 4) GENOEX PSE, and to a lesser extent stages 2 and 3 of GENOEX, are services that go beyond genetic evaluations for dairy cattle as they are very relevant to four other, than Interbull SC, WGs of ICAR - Genetic Analysis, Parentage Recording, Interbeef, and Breed Associations.
- 5) The issue of which part of ICAR is to provide the GENOEX PSE and subsequent services now comes into sharp focus.
 - a) Interbull, the Steering Committee and SLU (the service provider), have done all the work so far and through the Interbull service provider (SLU) has the capacity to implement and deliver the PSE service. There are considerable synergies resulting from having the GENOEX PSE services linked closely with Interbull including those associated with expert knowledge in genetics, IT expertise and related databases including the IDEAS database.
 - b) Service ICAR might be a better place to locate the GENOEX PSE service as it covers interests much wider than those covered by the Interbull SC. However, Service ICAR lacks the capability to technically implement the service.

¹ INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT (INTERBEEF)

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- c) The key consideration is the extent to which Service ICAR or SLU can provide an efficient customer focused service, which will be valued by all customers.
- 6) For me the way forward is clear:
- a) We (Interbull SC on behalf of ICAR) are establishing a Task Force for the implementation of the GENOEX PSE service that includes representation of all the ICAR interests in the PSE service. There are a lot of details to be considered which I understand will result in the PSE service terms and conditions. We need to ensure the Task Force has the expertise, experience and knowledge needed to agree terms and conditions that meet the needs of all parties. This work needs to proceed as a matter of urgency and I have no doubt it should be lead from Interbull.
- b) We (ICAR jointly with the Interbull SC) are establishing a Task Force to identify the synergies between ICAR and Interbull. This has a longer-term focus and its purpose is in part to find solutions to the apparent conflict and overlap that exists between Interbull and ICAR, including Service ICAR, operation as identified in 1, 2, 3, and 4 above. We need to agree terms of reference quite soon, ensure the members of the Task Force include people who share the vision of Future ICAR, understand what it takes to provide excellent services, and have a good knowledge of the challenges faced by the members of ICAR.
- c) ICAR (not Service ICAR) should agree a grant, from its reserves, of €60,000 to Interbull for the development of the PSE Service over the next three years with each payment being subject to satisfactory progress on points 6) a) and 6) b) above.

4 Role of Board of Service ICAR

The latest draft (1st August 2014) of the ICAR Business Processes shows the following decisions as being the responsibility of the Board of Service ICAR.

No.*	Name	Inputs	Outputs
F2	Establish Service ICAR Budget	Previous year(s) outcome and budget(s). Contribution expected by ICAR Board. Income and expenditure projections for new and existing services. Views of Groups overseeing specific services. Reasonable expectations of income produced by new activities.	Agreed and approved multiyear annual budget for Service ICAR. Agreed service fees.
F9	Monitor sICAR Finances	Report(s) on actions requested at end of previous quarter. Quarterly report of actuals relative to budgets on multiyear annual basis. Commentary from Secretariat.	List of agreed corrective actions to be taken by Secretariat. List of items requiring further information and or explanation from Secretariat.

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No.*	Name	Inputs	Outputs
S2	New service from Service-ICAR	Business plan for service prepared by relevant ICAR expert Group in consultation with ICAR Executive Team and presented for approval of Board of Service ICAR.	New service ready to be launched by Service ICAR.
S3	New service delivery	Service User/PROVIDER agreements. Service marketing and promotion. Application from potential service user.	New Service User/Provider.
S3a	ID Device Testing Service	Contract with Test Centre(s). Promotional Materials. Application for ID device test.	Registration of device passing test.
S3b	Recording Device Testing Service	Contract with Test Centre(s). Promotional Materials. Application for Recording Device test.	Approval of recording device that passes test.
S4	Service amendment	Report detailing proposed service detail change.	Service amendment.
S5	Set Service fees/COMMISSIONS	Previous fees and fee revisions by service providers. Board policy on fees. Service volume/activity. Views of Group supporting the Service. Budget(s).	Service Fees.
S6	Refine CoQ Service	Current CoQ service. Suggestions for enhancements. Evaluation of suggestions.	Updated CoQ Service
S7	Provide CoQ Service	CoQ requests. List of appointed Auditors. Allocation of Auditors to members. Auditors reports. Recommendation of ET-CoQ	Award of CoQ

Given the focus on service provision and the close working relationship with the Identification and Recording Devices Sub-Committees it is recommendation that the

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Chairperson of the Recording Devices Sub-Committee also be appointed the the Board of Service ICAR.

Consideration should also be given to adding the Chairperson of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee to the Board of Service ICAR. The thinking which lead me to this conclusion includes the following:

- There are a number of service issues around milk analysis that need to be addressed including the review of the decision to not support the AQAS proposal.
- The relationship between the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee and key ICAR Board members needs to be strengthened.
- The Milk Analysis Sub-Committee has a number of strategic relationships (IDF, RLN, DG-Sanco) that have a service element.
- Milk Analysis of core strategic importance to many of ICAR's members.

Reference: Macintosh HD:Users:bww>Data:Wickham Ltd:Customers:ICAR:ICAR SC WG TF:ICAR Board:ICAR Board Meetings:June 24th 2014:ASG Report ICAR Board Meeting 24 June 2014 v1.docx

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