

ICAR Certificate of Quality:

Auditor(s)' Report for the ICAR Executive Board (following the Executive Board's deliberations the report will be forwarded to the applicant).

Name(s) of Auditor(s) and areas audited Juho Kyntäjä (All requested areas)
Date of audit: <i>June 9th to 11th, 2014</i> Type of audit: <i>visited</i>
Applicant: <i>Växa Sverige</i>
Activities for which the ICAR Certificate of Quality are requested: The identification system for dairy and beef cattle The recording of production for dairy and beef cattle The genetic evaluation of dairy and beef cattle Laboratory analysis for milk recording Data processing work for ICAR member
Auditor's recommendation for the granting or refusal of the ICAR Certificate of Quality I recommend to grant Växa Sverige the ICAR Certificate of Quality for the next three years.
Other recommendations , please list any areas which, in the opinion of the auditor(s) would improve performance or service to the applicants farmers/customers. Should be carried out before next before the next audit (<i>Please list in order of priority quoting Guidelines</i>) - A more systematic approach to milk meters and their testing to guarantee Växa knows that ICAR approved and tested meters are being used at each recording (Recording Guidelines 1.5.2.1-2) - Milk recording methods and daily milking scheme have to be reported on both herd and cow level (Recording Guidelines 1.4, 1.6, 2.1.2, 2.1.3) if they are other than A4 and 2x which is considered the reference method (International Agreement on Identification, Recording and Evaluation of Farm Animals, Article 9) - Revise the official individual animal certificates according to Guidelines 1.4 - Limit the possibility of registering dairy cows in dairy herds temporarily as suckler cows outside milk recording (International Agreement on Identification, Recording and Evaluation of Farm Animals, Article 7) - Correct the minimum acceptable daily yield to 3.0 kg (Recording Guidelines 2.1.7.5) - Correct the maximum recording interval to 37 days as listed in Recording Guidelines 2.1.2
Desirable improvements but not obligatory (<i>Please list</i>) - Create a system of registering and monitoring farmer-owned milk meters in the milk recording database

- Consider changing the approach so that calculated recordings will not need to be invented if the farmer does not record on time. Recording Guidelines 2.1.2 states that the prevalent B4 method needs minimum 11 actual recordings per year. See also 2.1.7.8 on the number of individual cow recordings.
- Make sure all AI data arrives to the database before the calving is reported (Recording Guidelines 1.2.4.6)
- Get rid of the last Milko-Scope 1 meters
- Consider making use of the ICAR CoQ logo on the official certificates
- Consider correcting the milk analysis results for laboratory carry-over as suggested in Recording Guidelines 12.5.2.2
- One of the other two regional milk recording providers could be visited at a future audit if they still exist
- The Guidelines do not set a minimum number of supervisory visits so if need be you may revise how much effort you want to put in them

Review

Auditors to give a résumé of each of the areas for which the applicant requested audit and how in the auditors' opinion the applicant was providing service. Include a list of the sites visited where appropriate and the responsible person at each site (if known).

Identification

Résumé: Sweden has an obligatory country-wide identification system in place. All cattle has a unique identity and two living animals can never have the same ear tag numbers. The identification system is run by a state agency and the data is copied to the milk and beef recording and pedigree database.

Transport

Résumé: Milk samples are for the most transported by milk lorry to the dairies. In a few areas, recording technicians collect them. The laboratory service provider Eurofins has a service of collecting them from the dairies to the lab minimum 20 days a month.

Production recording (on-farm processes)

Résumé: Two farms were visited on recording day. In Stora Hallebo, the milking and sampling was done by two DeLaval robots. Animal identification, data extraction and sample management were done very professionally by Ulf Granevik. Stina & Sven Larsson were recording a 50-cow herd in a tie stall. The milk meters, cow ID's, recording process and data capture were inspected and seen to correspond to ICAR guidelines.

Laboratory

Résumé: All milk analysis is performed by Eurofins in Jönköping. The lab was visited and presented by Tomas Rydstedt. The lab has a good quality control system and is regularly controlled by Växa Sverige.

Data processing (off-farm processes)

Résumé: The data processing system was presented by Nils-Erik Larsson and Eva Stormwall. The system is efficient and quick. A lot of reporting is done to create added value to the

farmers and to make it more interesting to be in milk recording.

Genetic evaluations

Résumé: The genetic evaluation scheme was presented by Jan-Åke Eriksson. The breeding values for the main dairy breeds are calculated in NAV and for the other breeds locally but according to the same principles. Sweden participates in Interbull and Interbeef and data quality is known to be high.

Other comments/remarks/opinions not covered above

The Swedish system works very well in general. Typically for very old and well established milk recording systems, there are some instances where new or changed ICAR Guidelines have not been implemented. This serves to show how very necessary a regular audit to old ICAR members is.

The President and Board of ICAR thank you for all your work in auditing and compiling this report.