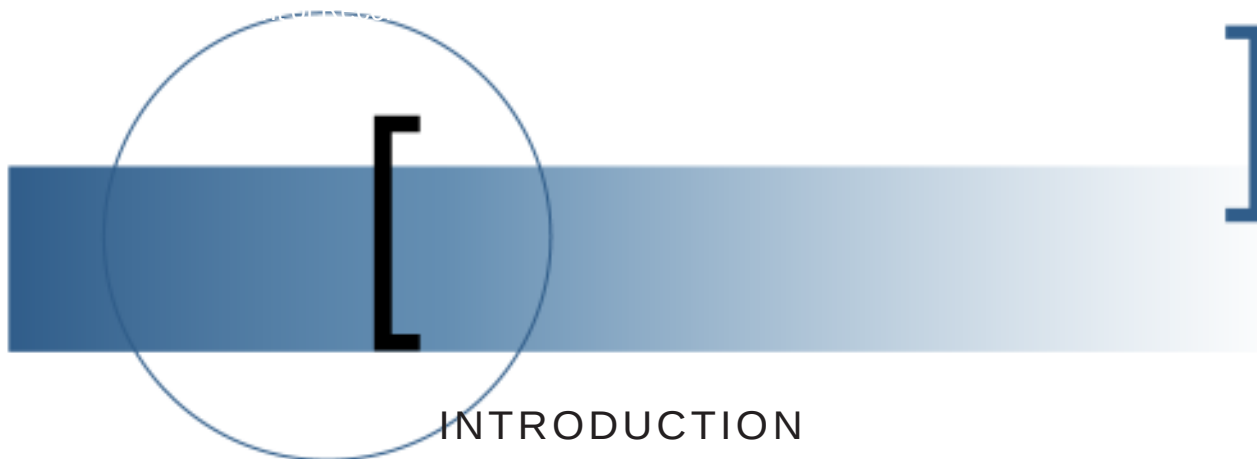




INTRODUCTION

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What is ICAR?

The International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) is ~~at the world-wide~~ worldwide membership based organization for the standardization of: animal identification, ~~and animal~~ recording and genetic evaluation, of farm animals, in animal production. Its aim is to ~~promote facilitate~~ improvement ~~and development of in animal~~ animal productivity, animal health, animal care, food safety, and the impact of animal production on the environment. It does this ~~recording and evaluation and animal production~~ through the formulation of rules, definitions, s and standards, and guidelines for ~~the measurement recording: of traits of economic importance of farm animals and importance, and~~ characteristics of production systems ~~with bearing on animal health, care, productivity food safety and the environment.~~ Together with the definitions and standards ICAR establishes specific guidelines and publish the findings! ICAR publishes information (www.icar.org).

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The ~~latest version of these ICAR G~~guidelines ~~is~~ ~~are~~ available ~~from the web site at~~ http://www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm ~~on hard copy at the ICAR office at:~~

Printed copies of the ICAR Guidelines are available from:

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~~Updated versions of the Guidelines can be downloaded from the web site at~~ www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON IDENTIFICATION, RECORDING AND GENETIC EVALUATION IN ANIMAL PRODUCTION.

1 Preamble

1. The International Committee for Animal Recording (hereinafter referred to as ICAR) is a worldwide membership based organization whose aim is to facilitate for the improvement in: animal productivity, animal health, animal care, food safety, and the impact of animal production on the environment. It does this through the formulation of rules, definitions, standards, and guidelines for recording: traits of economic importance, and characteristics of production systems and development of farm animal identification, recording and genetic evaluation.

2. It develops rules, standards and guidelines for animal identification and for recording and evaluation in animal production. ICAR is registered as an international non-governmental and non-profit organization in Italy. Its objects and functions are detailed in its Statutes.

3. In recognition of national and international legislation affecting its members, ICAR will incorporate legal agreements into its rules, standards and guidelines.

3. The rules, standards and guidelines as laid down in this agreement, and the standards and guidelines as contained in the ICAR Guidelines, are regarded as the minimum requirements within the aims of ICAR for ensuring satisfactory recording, genetic evaluation, and certification in animal production. within the aims of ICAR.

4. The agreement is designed to allow member organizations a degree of choice and flexibility within the rules, and standards and guidelines, while ensuring that there is a satisfactory degree of uniformity within the record keeping and genetic evaluation methods among ICAR member organizations.

5. Rules, standards and guidelines may be supplemented from time to time by additional provisions approved by the General Assembly of ICAR.

Article 2. General rules

1. Any new member organization shall adopt and satisfy this Agreement within two years of taking up membership.

2. Each member organization shall, on request, submit its recording rules in English to the ICAR Secretariat.

3. Any Member or Associate Member wishing to withdraw from the agreement, or withdrawing its recognition of a recording organization, shall notify the ICAR Secretariat Board in advance of the date of its planned withdrawal. The ICAR Secretariat Board will then immediately notify all other member organizations of that fact and of the date of withdrawal.

4. The ICAR Board may revoke the recognition of a member organization if the latter ceases to satisfy this agreement.

Article 3. Registration of results and authentication of records Recording and genetic evaluation activities

1. Each member organization shall keep the ICAR Secretariat informed of any changes in the range of its recording and genetic evaluation related activities using the appropriate form as provided by the Secretariat.

Article 4. Comply with ICAR Guidelines

The member organization agrees to comply with the ICAR standards and guidelines, as contained in the latest version of the ICAR Guidelines, that are relevant to the range of recording and genetic evaluation activities undertaken by the member.

~~Official records shall be calculated by one of the methods defined in this Agreement.~~

~~2. The recording organizations report to the ICAR Secretariat the data items that are recorded, together with the recording methods and the calculation methods used as defined in this Agreement.~~

Article ~~5~~4. Certificates

1. Certificates containing recording and genetic evaluation results may only be issued by a Member Organization in accordance with the relevant section(s) of the ICAR Guidelines.

2. Certificates related to animal health, animal care, safety of animal products and to environmental impact of production may only be issued by a Member Organization carrying out recording in related fields.
3. Certificates on suitability of identification and recording devices shall be issued by ICAR.
4. Certificate of Quality confirming the adherence to this Agreement and to the ICAR Guidelines can be issued by ICAR.

Article 65. Recording: basic principles

1. **Herd/Flock** - Any group of animals kept for the same purpose and at the same location shall be regarded as a whole herd/flock. For a record to be considered an official record, the whole herd as defined above must be recorded.
 2. **Identification** – Every animal in a herd/flock must be identified uniquely identified using a officially system approved for the country in accordance with the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines.
 3. **Base record** – Every animal should have accurate basic data recorded including birth date, sex, ancestry, date of movement in and out of the herd/flock, and date of death, in accordance with the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines.
 4. **Trait records** – Every trait recorded for an animal should be recorded in accordance with the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines. Records of traits of an individual animal should be a true indication of the identity, sex, breed, ancestry and date of birth of the animal. Only information recorded in the manner and to the standards of the Agreement shall be presented as the official record. The recorded animal must be identified in accordance with the animal identity regulations pertaining in the country where animal reside. Parentage, production traits and other characteristics including health traits shall be recorded in accordance with the Agreement. Recording standards for each trait are given in the ICAR rules.
52. Records of characteristics of production systems should be true indicators of the state of animal health, animal care, food safety and the environment **and be recorded in accordance with the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines.**

Article 7. Evaluation: basic principles

1. **Genetic e**Evaluation of traits of an individual animal ~~and of production systems must~~should be carried out in accordance with ~~this Agreement~~the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines.
2. Evaluation of productions systems must be carried out in accordance with the relevant section of the ICAR Guidelines.
32. Member Organizations ~~organizations~~ carrying out genetic evaluations, ~~parentage recording and~~ and evaluation of production systems ~~must~~can be accredited by ICAR.

Article 8. Organization of recording and evaluation

1. ~~Organizations carrying out recordings and evaluation are free to determine their particular recording and evaluation methodologies provided these are in agreement with the ICAR rules.~~
2. ~~Recording can be undertaken by any of the approved ICAR methods contained in the ICAR Rules, Standards and Guidelines.~~

Article 9. The recorded herd

1. ~~Any group of animals kept for the same purpose and at the same location shall be regarded as a whole herd. For a record to be considered an official record, the whole herd as defined above must be recorded.~~

~~2. The recorded herd can be divided into separately recorded groups of animals, provided that those groups of animals are of clearly distinct breeds or crosses or are managed in significantly different ways at different locations.~~

Article 10. Recording of parentage

~~1. The parentage of an animal shall be recorded by identifying and recording the service sire and the served animal at the time of service. The identity, sex and date of birth of an animal, shall be recorded as soon after parturition of the dam as possible.~~

~~2. Rules for parentage recording are given in the ICAR Rules on Parentage Recording.~~

Article 11. Recording milk and milk constituents

~~1. The A4/2 milkings method is the ICAR standard reference recording. Any other approved method of recording as given in the ICAR Rules on Methods of Recording Performance may be used.~~

~~2. Milk recording can be done at one or more milkings.~~

~~3. Relevant symbols describe the method of recording and are given in the ICAR Rules on Recording Intervals.~~

~~4. ICAR Members are expected to observe the ICAR Rules, Standards and Guidelines on Recording Milk and Milk Constituents.~~

Article 12. Recording of other traits and other species

~~1. The traits of other farm animal species shall be recorded in the manner defined in the respective ICAR rules.~~

~~2. Other traits of bovine species shall be recorded in accordance with ICAR rules.~~

Article 13. Genetic and other evaluations

~~Genetic and other evaluations shall be estimated using one of the methods detailed in the ICAR Rules, Standards and Guidelines on Methods of Genetic Evaluation~~

Article ~~8~~14. Supervision and quality assurance

1. All Members involved in recording and /or evaluation related activities shall establish a system of supervision.

2. Associate Members involved in production of identification, recording and analytical devices should establish the system of quality control and quality assurance.

3. For the purpose of this Agreement, the recognized quality assurance systems are ICAR Certificate of Quality and ISO accreditation.

Article ~~9~~14. Publication of results

1. Published records should furnish a true indication of an animal's performance, parentage and genetic merit. Official records and certificates may be issued only by member organizations and by organizations approved by them.

2. All published official records should be to a standardized basis as described in the ICAR ~~Rules~~Guidelines.

2.1. In all cases the publication of the official record should indicate the methods used as given in the ~~Sections of this Agreement~~ICAR Guidelines.

2.2. Where the record includes estimates of missing data, it must so state.

2.3. The breed, sex and unique identity of the animal and the sire and dam of the animal and of their sires and dams and the animal's date of birth, should be shown on the official records, where these are known to the Recording Organization.

2.4. Where the record has been significantly affected by the health of the animal, the record should so state.

2.5. Where the record has been significantly affected by an unusual management practice and/or environmental conditions, the record should so state.

3. Details for the publication of records are given in the ICAR ~~Rules~~ Guidelines on Individual Animal Certificate