

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>March 23rd to 25th, 2015.</i> Type of audit: <i>visited</i>
Applicant: <i>TINE SA</i>
Activities for which the ICAR Certificate of Quality are requested: The identification system for dairy cattle The recording of production for dairy cattle The genetic evaluation of dairy 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 TINE SA 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>) - Find a way to extract actual milking data from automatic milking systems. The present practice of using 7-day averages is contrary to Recording Guidelines 2.1.8.4. - To estimate 24-hour fat and protein yields in automatic milking, please use ICAR approved methods, for example the one in Recording Guidelines 2.1.8.2. The milk weights for this estimation and the sample must be from the same period. - Take a more systematic approach to milk meters and their testing to guarantee TINE actually knows that ICAR approved and tested meters are being used at each recording (Recording Guidelines 1.5.2.1-2) - Carry out the plan of conducting a small number of supervised extra test milkings each year as presented in Recording Guidelines 1.5.3.3 - 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) - Correct the required minimum number of samples per herd and year to six as listed in Recording Guidelines 2.1.2. Sampling can only be skipped if the interval is 4 weeks or less. - Correct the minimum acceptable daily yield to 3.0 kg (Recording Guidelines 2.1.7.5)

- In paternity checks, the range for gestation length should be $\pm 6\%$ (Recording Guidelines 1.2.2)
- Report known carriers of genetic defects on the individual animal cards (Recording Guidelines 1.4.1.4)

Desirable improvements but not obligatory (*Please list*)

- Create a system of registering and monitoring farmer-owned milk meters in the milk recording database
- 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
- Consider changing the practical procedures, at least in bigger herds, to less time-consuming ones. Automatic data exchange and precoded vials could be a way to look at.
- Find ways to allow one-milking sampling and data correction to avoid mistakes coming from “proportional” sampling. Guidelines 2.1.4.2.2.
- Think of efficient ways to train farmers in milk recording practices when technology or generation changes.

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: Norway 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 recording and pedigree database.

Transport

Résumé: Milk samples are transported by the dairy lorry to the dairies. The local dairies deliver them further to the five regional laboratories.

Production recording (on-farm processes)

Résumé: Two farms were visited on recording day. Ole Røed in Skjeberg was sampling a 60-cow organic herd milked in a Lely AMS. The equipment was properly installed and used but there were some uncertainties in the recording process. The visit was accompanied by the local advisor Geir Gislo.

Jon Martin Rustad was sampling a 20-cow herd in a tie stall, using three recently tested Tru-Test meters. Samples were taken at both milkings, milk weights were read visually and written down by hand. The visit was accompanied by the local advisor Sverre Wedum.

Milk meters were discussed with Tilmann Hettasch from TINE.

Laboratory

Résumé: Milk analysis is performed in four TINE laboratories and one lab belonging to another dairy company. The TINE lab in Brumunddal was visited and presented by Marit Rogstadkjærnet. The lab has a good quality control system and is working with good standards.

Data processing (off-farm processes)

Résumé: The data processing system was presented by Claude-Marie Davidsen. The system is efficient and easy to work with. A lot of reporting is done to create added value to the farmers and to make it more interesting to be in milk recording. Especially worth mentioning is the integration between milk recording and veterinary data in the Norwegian system.

Genetic evaluations

Résumé: The genetic evaluation scheme was presented by Morten Svensen. The breeding values are calculated by GENO. Norway participates in Interbull and the data quality is known to be high.

Other comments/remarks/opinions not covered above

The Norwegian system works well and smoothly 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. Also, the time seems to have come when the increased herd size is starting to demand more attention.

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