

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: <i>In the case of more than one auditor, please indicate the areas which each auditor audited. In the case where auditors are working from differing sites (in relation to non-visiting audits) then both auditors are required to complete this document).</i> Charl Hunlun, ICAR, Rome, Italy
Date of audit: 5 – 7 June 2017
Applicant: Holstein UK (Holstein and British Friesian)
Activities for which the ICAR Certificate of Quality are requested: Animal Identification (Dairy Cattle) Linear Classification / -Scoring Herd Book Recording Data Processing
Auditor's recommendation for the granting or refusal of the ICAR Certificate of Quality: It is recommended that the ICAR Certificate of Quality be granted for all the above-mentioned fields of activity.
In the event of a negative recommendation , for the whole or part of the application, list the areas requiring attention and give a résumé as to reasons for non-acceptance and or non-compliance. Please list in order of priority. <i>This section must refer to any breach of national law or ICAR Guidelines, quoting references.</i> Not applicable.
Other recommendations , please list any areas which, in the opinion of the auditor(s) would improve performance or service to the applicant's farmers/customers. None. Should be carried out before next before the next audit (Please list in order of priority quoting Guidelines). Not applicable.
Desirable improvements but not obligatory (Please list). None.

Review

Auditors are to give a résumé of each of the areas for which the applicant requested audit as to how, in the auditors' opinion, the applicant was providing service.

Animal Identification (specify species)

Résumé:

A statutory, unified animal identification system is in place for the United Kingdom. The system conforms to all the relevant ICAR Guidelines. All the cattle that are recorded by Holstein UK are identified according to these prescriptions. In addition to this national system, Holstein UK allocates, issues and administers an additional supplementary system of unique herd book numbers for animals recorded on their computerised system. These numbers are also successfully processed and communicated, together with the national identification numbers, to several third-party users of the system. This system also conforms to all the relevant ICAR Guidelines.

ICAR-approved identification tags are used as the primary identifier of individual animals but other supplementary devices are also in use.

Routine and random parentage verification is done for *ca.* 2.4% of the recorded annual calf crop – these tests are carried out by ICAR-accredited laboratories.

Herd book Recording

Résumé:

The applicant is responsible for the herd book recording of eight (8) cattle breeds in the UK and the EU. The recording system makes provision for the application of the individual, and mostly unique, rules of recording for each of the relevant breeds and suitable procedures and quality assurance routines are in place to ensure the accurate recording of animal identification, ownership, parentage and production data. Data emanating from the herd book database is used on a routine basis for the genetic evaluation of dairy cattle in the UK and regularly submitted to INTERBULL for test runs and international genetic evaluations.

Production recording (Milk) (specify species)

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Production recording (Meat) (specify species)

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Linear Classification / -scoring

Résumé:

Holstein UK manages and operates well-structured conformation recording programs for Holstein and seven (7) other dairy cattle breeds. The program employs 14 full-time classifiers and is fully harmonised and integrated with the program of the World Holstein-Friesian Federation and other relevant world breed associations. Data from the system is used for genetic evaluations and are subjected to international scrutiny on a regular basis. All the ICAR Guidelines in terms of conformation recording (Section 5.2.2) are complied with. All classifiers are subjected to regular monitoring and training and the means and spreads of the scores of all classifiers for all traits are evaluated on a continuous basis. Samples of the relevant parameters from the data collected in the program were examined and were found to be within acceptable limits. All the relevant procedures and practices were deemed to be in accordance with the relevant ICAR Guidelines. Staff of Holstein UK played a critical role in the implementation of this Field of Activity in the ICAR CoQ program.

Laboratory Services – Milk Analysis

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Laboratory Services – Genetic Analysis

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Genetic evaluation (specify species)

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Data processing

Résumé:

Holstein UK owns the data processing facility and the database used for its operations. The IT-staff of Holstein UK are responsible for the specification, partial programming, maintenance, operation, data input / output and general management of a set of dedicated software routines that encompasses the IT needs of the organisation and the full scope of its client base. Selected core and enterprise programming are contracted out to specialised software contractors.

The facilities adequately provide for the needs of its primary clients and its varied secondary client base and all the relevant traits are properly recorded, processed and stored. Data is organised in an integrated database and adequate data quality procedures are in place.

The farmers/breeders are the principle owners of the data and all recorded data and results are constantly available to participating farmers and other clients through well-designed and robust web interfaces. Data and results are made available to third parties for various purposes, including breeding value estimation.

Adequate risk management procedures are in place and the database / software system undergoes constant renewal and development.

Other comments/remarks/opinions not covered above

The applicant was well-prepared for the audit and was expertly and courteously represented by:

Ms. Suzanne Harding – Product Services Executive (CIS)

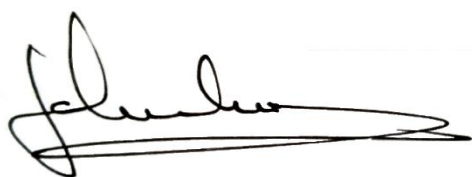
Mr. Peter Martin – Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Meurig James – Head of Breed Development

Ms. Susan Boughton – Membership Services

Ms. Helen Roffe – Membership Services

Ms. Kate Cross – Head of NBDC



Auditor

2017/06/08

Date

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