

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: 7 – 9 June 2017
Applicant: National Milk Records plc
Activities for which the ICAR Certificate of Quality are requested: Production Recording (Dairy Cattle) Laboratory Services (Milk Samples) 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:

Not applied for.

Herd book Recording

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Production recording (Milk) (specify species)

Résumé:

NMR is responsible for the recording of the production of ca. 488 000 dairy cows on ca. 3 700 farms. Production is recorded according to methods A3 (0.03%), A4 (48.96%), A6 (2.4%), AT (29.98%), B (16.83%) and Other (1.8%). NMR uses 199 ICAR-approved milk meters but the vast majority of milk meters belong to their clients. Maintenance and calibration procedures for the meters owned by the applicant were noted and are in accordance with the relevant ICAR Guidelines.

Milk recording on test days are carried out by technicians employed by the applicant. Adequate training, supervision- and quality assurance procedures, including control tests, are in place. Sampling schemes and calculation methods are in accordance with the ICAR Guidelines.

The applicant is responsible for the transport of most samples. An efficient system is in place. Samples are preserved and, on average, delivered to the laboratory within 24 hours. On average results are provided to the farmers within 2 days of the samples being taken. The samples are identified according to a robust system and the mismatching of sample- / cow identification rarely occurs.

Milk recording practices were observed during a visit to the farm of Mr. Mike Madders of Church Farm in the Copenhall area (Staffordshire) (248 cows in milk, average yield 9 735 kg, 4.06% fat, 3.24% protein). All procedures are within the prescripts of the ICAR Recording Guidelines.

Production recording (Meat) (specify species)

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Linear Classification / -scoring

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Laboratory Services – Milk Analysis

Résumé:

More than 7 million milk samples are analysed annually by the laboratories owned by NMR. All the laboratories have valid ISO 17025:2005 accreditation (UKAS numbers for labs in the UK: 2051, 2700 – valid until 2018). The laboratories regularly participate in national and international ring tests for all relevant milk constituents.

The prescribed instrument (CombiFoss) calibration and checking programmes are executed monthly and reference samples are analysed after every batch (set of samples from a farm) or every 180 samples, whichever number is the smallest. The applicant employs several resident technical engineers to oversee the maintenance and operation of the analytical machines. An engineer is on-site at all times.

All the staff have appropriate qualifications and skills and adequate quality assurance measures are in place. The relevant procedures were observed in the laboratory in Four Ashes, Wolverhampton and found to be in accordance with appropriate laboratory practice and the ICAR Guidelines.

Laboratory Services – Genetic Analysis

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Genetic evaluation (specify species)

Résumé:

Not applied for.

Data processing

Résumé:

NMR owns and operates its own data processing system in Harrogate and staff employed by the company is responsible for the specification, programming, maintenance, operation, data input / output and general management of a dedicated software system that encompasses the IT needs of the organisation. The system communicates successfully with the systems of several other role-players in the industry.

The applicant achieves good turn-around times (1.9 days average) from test days to receipt of the reports on-farm. NMR employs a group of dedicated IT-personnel that looks after all the data processing and -communication needs of the organisation.

The farmers/breeders are the principle owners of the data and all recorded data and results are constantly available to participating farmers. Data and results are made available to several third parties for value-adding and 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

All recommendations and remarks from previous CoQ Audits (2012; 2015) have been satisfactorily addressed. The submissions received from the applicant was well-prepared, complete and thorough.

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

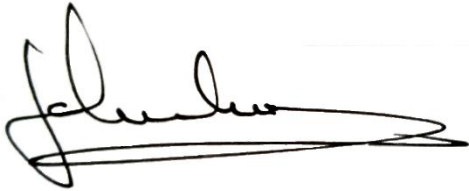
Mr. Tony Craven – Group Operations Manager

Ms. Sue Perry – Area Field Manager

Mr. Mark Walters – Laboratory Manager

Ms. Stephanie Jones – Laboratory Shift Manager

Cheryl Abbott – Senior Team Leader (DP)
Mr. Seamus Gilheany – Software development Manager
Ms. Jo Al Ani – Software / Program manager
Mr. Damian Armitage – Print Room Manager
Ms. Helen Whittaker – Customer Account Manager
Mr. Andy Dungey – Laboratory Quality Manager



Auditor

2017/06/09
Date

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