



ICAR Certificate of Quality Auditor's Report – ACRUGA Beef Cattle Association

Name of Auditor:	Japie van der Westhuizen																								
Date of audit:	20 November 2021																								
Applicant(s):	ACRUGA (Breed: Rubia Gallega)																								
Fields of activity audited:	<table><tr><td>☐</td><td>ID</td><td>Animal identification (cattle)</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>PB</td><td>Beef recording (cattle)</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>HB</td><td>Herdbook recording</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>LC</td><td>Conformation recording</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>DP</td><td>Data processing</td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>☐</td><td>GB</td><td>Genetic evaluation (beef cattle)</td><td>X</td></tr></table>	☐	ID	Animal identification (cattle)	X	☐	PB	Beef recording (cattle)	X	☐	HB	Herdbook recording	X	☐	LC	Conformation recording	X	☐	DP	Data processing	X	☐	GB	Genetic evaluation (beef cattle)	X
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X = Recommended to be Awarded

ICAR Certificate of Quality assessment in 2021

This Audit is on behalf of the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) for **ACRUGA Beef Cattle Breeders' Association**.

The reasons and value for participation in the ICAR Certificate of Quality, as pointed out on the ICAR website are as follows:

- A unique mark identifying **product and service quality** for customers which meets or exceeds the published ICAR
- A **marketing tool** for organizations which will identify their **conformance with internationally recognized standards**
- A time-sensitive approval period which will ensure to **customers** that the service provider has routinely met the ICAR criteria thereby **providing enhanced confidence** in the quality of service or product received.
- A **mark** of the demonstrated **leadership** of ICAR in the international marketplace through the provision of value-added services for its members.

The audit process also provides for an ideal opportunity for interaction between the auditor and auditee(s) to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience. Under normal circumstances, a first-time audit will involve a comprehensive completion of the standard questionnaire and a site visit with the necessary consultations between the auditor(s) and representatives of the body being audited. Due to the initial travel and meeting restrictions caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus an on-site visit was not possible during 2020 and, as interim measure a series of "virtual" meetings took place via the Zoom application.

This was followed by a site visit on 20 November 2021 to the offices of ACRUGA, two breeders (including the president, Cesae Dorado Pin) and the Association's Bull Testing and AI facility (Rego de Pontecela) near Lugo.

The Association was represented by:

Cesar Dorado Pin	President (and Ganadero)
Susana Nuñez Bruzos	Ganadera (farmer)
Modesto Arias López	Ganadero
Alberto Vazquez Garcia	Ganadero
Laura Arias Gonzalez	Secretaria ejecutiva (Association Secretary)
Ana Tubio Rodriguez	Inspectora (Genetic Program Inspector)
Miguel Rodriguez Lopez	Administrativo (Office Clerk)
Luis Varona Aguado	Genetic evaluation

General impressions:

Given the completed questionnaire, Zoom interview in November 2020 and the visited audit on 20 November 2021, the following impressions, conclusions and recommendations are given:

- ACRUGA's personnel and breeders are commended for their enthusiasm, diligence, experience and vision for their Association and their breed.
- The Association is also commended for the way it is using resources and sourcing resources, such as services provided for the database and genetic evaluation, while still maintaining control over the destiny of the breed with their own specifications and control.
- The Association is also commended for the data-integration to also include slaughter data from pure bred animals and the use thereof in assessing genetic merit.
- It is recommended that the Association and staff encourage and consider the following actions and practices:
 - Expand the number of genetic evaluations, especially during peak weaning seasons and make selection lists available to breeders on a more regular basis.
 - To pursue further the intention to include female fertility traits in the genetic evaluations to fit into the current breeding values presented.
 - Expanding of existing genetic models to multiple trait evaluations to better accommodate sequential selection and culling.
 - Make use of the current number of genomic profiles and put plans in place to expand these numbers for inclusion in the genetic evaluations.
- The use of a composite selection index is well advanced and is commended. The Association is making use of scientific aids and puts itself in line with the global use of genetic merit selection based on breed objectives.
- The identification of Sires of sires and Dams of sires are commended, as it is the only Association visited that indicate such a practice.
- Due to limitations in testing facilities, only a small number of bulls are being evaluated for feed intake. The possibility could be investigated to expand growth tests of young bulls where breeders jointly test bulls for growth characteristics (and where body measurements and scores are done within such contemporary groups).
- An interesting practice is the allowance (and encouragement) of myostatin causing alleles (nt821 mutation) in the breed, especially for use in crossbreeding programs. Sires are comprehensively tested for the presence of this mutation.



- A range of plausibility checks are built in at two levels, namely at acceptance of recording and prior to acceptance of genetic evaluations. This is in compliance with acceptable norms for Herdbook, Beef and Conformation recording.
- The Association also has a well-developed classification system, carried out by trained classifiers. The phenotypic classifications are also reported in the publications of the Association, including catalogues (AI bulls).

None of these recommendations have any bearing or should serve as prerequisite for the granting of the ICAR Certificate of Quality to ACRUGA Beef Cattle Breeders' Association.

The activities, systems, and practices of the **ACRUGA Beef Cattle Breeders' Association** warrant the **granting of the ICAR Certificate of Quality for ALL the fields of activity as applied for and indicated in this document.**

Auditor:



Japie van der Westhuizen

Date:

6 December 2021