

INTERBEEF Working Group meeting
May 28th ICAR Conference Cork

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1. Introduction & Welcome (Brian Wickham ICBF and chairman)

Participants: Attached as appendix 1.

Apologies: Hans Graser

2. Agreement of Agenda

Agreed as distributed in advance of meeting.

3. Minutes of Meeting 12th January

Agreed without change.

4. Workplan

a) Pedigree data and validation - Progress report by Valentina Palucci (INTERBULL Centre)

Feedback from participants on experiences with uploading:

UK (SAC Kirsty Moore): Pedigree checker step completed and ok. Working on validation now.

Czech Republic: Working on pedigree file.

Ireland: Ross Evans & Thierry Pabiou: pedigree check and uploading complete, correcting errors. A comment from Thierry that the steps needed to correct pedigrees needs clarification. This was acknowledged and clarified by Valentina Palucci (INTERBULL Centre). It is easier for Ireland to upload all breeds and crosses at the same time as many animals will crossover the pedigrees of different breeds.

Denmark: Process of uploading was slow and it was difficult to find patterns of pedigree issues needing resolving.

Clara Diaz (INIA, Spain): no problems with uploading of Spanish pedigrees, only 3 pending animals remaining to be validated.

INRA (Laurent Griffon): Some problems with uploading of large files. Eric Venot questioned the level of problem animals from France. Valentina confirmed that the same pedigree checking program runs every time a new pedigree is uploaded.

South Africa (Japie van Westhuizen): Countries need to know timelines for upload completion.

João Dürr (INTERBULL Centre): Timeline has expired for this phase of the work but in essence INTERBEEF is flexible and will accept new pedigrees in the short term.

Brian Wickham (ICBF and Chairman): The INTERBEEF database will be a permanent repository of pedigree data so there is no deadline for pedigree uploading. However phenotypic data will be submitted next and no phenotypes will be accepted for animals with no pedigree in the database.

João Dürr (INTERBULL Centre): INTERBULL are now migrating to a new version of the database, the initial uploads of pedigree data were very large and will not be a regular activity.

Valentina Palucci (INTERBULL Centre) gave a presentation. Much enhanced speed in the new version of the uploading facility. The database is a common dairy and beef database.

b) Phenotype data and validation - Progress report by Valentina Palucci (INTERBULL Centre)

New file formats have been circulated for uploading of phenotypic data allowing for more flexibility in the description of country evaluations.

A checking program will be used for validation of data in the data file i.e. the number of correction factors, means, sds, and frequency distributions.

Japie van der Westhuizen (Stud book South Africa): Clarification was needed around the data submitted i.e. is it an actual weight or an adjusted weight.

Brian Wickham (ICBF and Chairman): INTERBEEF database will look to store and evaluate the original phenotypic data.

c) Evaluation Service - Progress report by Valentina Palucci (INTERBULL Centre)

João Dürr (INTERBULL Centre): 2 actions in the coming months:

- 1) The INTERBULL centre will run a pilot adjusted weaning weight evaluation based on Eric Venot's initial work on Limousine and Charolais weaning weights.
- 2) ICBF will run a concurrent evaluation with crossbred data incorporated using the same data.

It was agreed that Service Users need to finalize their pedigree verifications so that Interbull Centre can “freeze” pedigrees to allow Service Users to use the correct IDs to prepare the

phenotypic files. The proposal will be specified in the data call: deadline for uploading and verifying pedigrees: July 30 (same as for dairy – August run); deadline for sending phenotypic data: September 17.

d) Date of pilot evaluation using “arbitrary” correlations

Tentatively set for September 2012.

(e) Reports on research proposals

ICBF (Ross Evans). No written or presented report yet. However ICBF are testing MIX99 software at the moment which will likely be used in the research proposal for future development of the INTERBEEF weaning weight evaluation.

IAS Czech Republic (Zdenka Vesela): Zdenka presented a comprehensive plan for a calving traits evaluation including calving ease and stillbirths (See presentation for details).

João Dürr (INTERBULL Centre): There should be collaboration between the research groups involved in the projects to make best use of time and resources.

Clara Diaz (INIA, Spain): Will birth weight be included in the calving evaluations?

Japie van Westhuizen (Stud book South Africa): What if a country has no calving ease data but has birth weights?

Brian Wickham (ICBF and Chairman): A technical group will be set up to cover these issues.

Kirsty Moore (SAC): No update or report on the carcass trait evaluation proposal.

Clara Diaz (INIA, Spain): Clara gave a presentation on work around female fertility. In summary she stated that there was a key requirement to define the traits required. To do this a survey across countries for female fertility is needed.

5. Technical Committee

João Dürr (INTERBULL Centre): Regarding the technical committee there is a need for people with a long term vision to convey a long term outlook for breeding and traits needing measurement and evaluation. Dorian Garrick and Roel Veerkamp are currently member of the Scientific Advisory Committee. There was also a need for group of experts needed to give advice on the various categories of traits needed. There was only two indications of interest in the technical committees expressed to João prior to this meeting (Czech and UK). List was circulated for suggestions to be made. João to report back and schedule a first meeting of the Technical Committee.

- Interbeef Technical Committee (names indicated in the Cork meeting)
 - CZE: Pavel Bucek, Zsenka Vesela, Lubos Vostry
 - GBR: Raphael Mrode
 - FRA: Eric Venot OR Marie Noelle Fouilloux
 - DEU: Friedrich Reinhardt
 - ESP: Clara Diaz OR Maria Jesus Carabaño

- IRL: Ross Evans, Thierry Pabiou
- ZAF: Norman Maiwashe, Bobbie van der Westhuizen
- ICAR: Andrea Rosati

6. Use of data in Research:

Brian Wickham (ICBF and Chairman): Countries should upload all data across all breeds and this will be used selectively depending on the pilot project.

Terms for use of data in research to be proposed by Brian based on model used by ICBF.

7. 7(a) Agreement for sharing costs

There was an agreement reached on the sharing of costs. INTERBEEF has a budget of some €100,000 and there is funding agreed for 2012. Andrea Rosati, on behalf of Service ICAR, to contact Service Users (attached as appendix 3) and agree invoices for payment in 2012. Service ICAR to agree budget and payments to SLU, Interbull Centre.

The current fee structure is being reviewed and may be altered to be based on the number of animals involved in each organization for 2013 and future years.

8. 7(b) Logo

Andrea Rosati (ICAR): INTERBEEF needs a logo for protection of the name and brand. Full protection of the logo will cost about €15,000 on average across all the countries around the world. There was a consensus from the participants that a logo is necessary and should be protected.

9. 7(c) Website

Cesare Mosconi: Interbeef.org and Interbeef.com have been protected. Website has been established (http://www.icar.org/pages/working_groups/wg_interbeef.htm) and transfer of responsibility for website maintenance from Interbull Centre will be completed in near future.

10. Future Meetings of WG

Possibility for use of video conferencing technology suggested and agreed.

Tentative meeting schedule:

- a. Technical Committee
- b. January 2013 – Stansted?
- c. With ICAR in Aarhus – 29th to 31st May 2013?
- d. With WCGALP, Vancouver, Canada 2014?

11. AOB

Amendments to ICAR guidelines, they are on the ICAR website and will be discussed on Wednesday morning 30th May at the conference.

ICAR and BIF guidelines: there is lots of overlap and potential for rationalisation. There was a discussion about a more fluid changing of guidelines and a willingness to help around the ICAR guidelines revision. (Robert Williams, BIF).

12. Interbeef Workshop (14:00 to 18:00 – Monday 28th May)

Presentations can be found on http://www.icar.org/Cork_2012/.

A workshop took place on Monday, 28th May 2012, to discuss future international collaboration in recording and breeding of beef cattle. At the end of the meeting the attendees were split into 5 groups. The purpose was that each group would identify priorities for future collaboration and also recommendations on how Interbeef can improve into the future.

The following are the key recommendations and suggestions relating mainly to genetic evaluations, services and research across each of the groups:

1. The consensus was that collaboration is key to the success of Interbeef and that Interbeef will work.
2. There needs to be standardisation of phenotypic traits i.e. condition score, type evaluations, across all countries. This may involve updating the guidelines that are currently in place.
3. Need to identify what traits are most valuable (one group suggested prioritising calving ease, weaning weight and carcass weight out of 21 traits they had identified) and if any more or new traits need to be recorded e.g. recording 2 weights in and around weaning time.
4. Need to encourage and emphasise the importance of weight recording for all countries.
5. Interbeef needs to provide a service to farmers in order for the Industry to realise the benefits.
6. Interbeef should provide the leadership and drive to collect all phenotypes and genotypes in the one database.
7. Initially, Interbeef needs to resolve all pedigree issues for both beef and dairy animals along with devising tools that will find pedigree errors.
8. A set of rules relating to pedigree information should be put in place for all countries providing data to Interbeef. Also, there should be rules around the timing of evaluations (3 runs per year was recommended) and publications.
9. A work-plan is needed to allocate the workload across all those involved. The workgroup involved in carrying out the work-plan would also provide a leading role in problem solving.
10. Funding for genotyping should be prioritised for animals with good genetic links especially now that we are potentially moving from 54k chip to 777k chip.

11. Review the benefits, if any, of including crossbred animals for genetic evaluations carried out across countries.
12. Interbeef should be heavily involved in reducing the cost of genotyping.
13. There should be sharing of genotypes across countries to speed up and further improve the progress of genomics.
14. Interbeef should help reduce genotyping and research and development costs for emerging populations.
15. Interbeef should outline the benefits for breeds and countries that have not yet signed up to the program.
16. There should be a committee set up to oversee research across all countries involved in Interbeef in order to maximise resources and avoid duplication.
17. Countries that are not participating in Interbeef should get access to foreign ebv's.
18. There needs to be a review carried out of the role of national genetic evaluation now that there is the potential for global genetic evaluations.
19. There also needs to be a review carried out as to how each country records traits and carry out genetic evaluations.
20. The knowledge gained from genomics in dairy could potentially be a template for beef. This potential needs to be explored further.
21. Interbeef needs to look at how visual images and new technologies can be used for more objective recording of live and slaughter characteristics.
22. Look at accepting pedigree information from counties that don't want to send phenotypic data.

13. Appendix 1 – List of Meeting Participants

Last name	Badge	Company	Country	Email Address
Arcila	MAURICIO ARCILA	Canadian Beef Breeds Council	Canada	info@canadianbeefbreeds.com
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Holmquist	Bruce Holmquist	World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation	Canada	bholmquist@simmental.com

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14. Appendix 2 – Participants in Interbeef Workshop

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Thanks to Ross Evans for taking minutes

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