# ICAR NEWSLETTER

Focus on new ICAR President, 33rd ICAR Session, Guidelines, News from SC and WG


## 1. New President and new Secretary General

The new ICAR President, proposed by the Board and approved by the General Assembly, is Mark Jeffries. Mr. Jeffries is available to serve one two-year term.

J. Boyazoglu left his post in EAAP by the end of the year. His successor within EAAP, the ICAR Vice President A. Rosati, is automatically also the new Secretary General of ICAR. J. Boyazoglu will remain Secretary of the ICAR Board until the Paris General Assembly in May 2003.

*The past ICAR President, Mr. Joseph Crettenand (on the left), and the new President Mr. Mark Jeffries (on the right) during the Interlaken Meeting*

## 2. Service-ICAR

SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l. was created to service specific needs of ICAR membership, which could not be operated through the existing structure. SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l. was created, in September 2001 as a limited warrant company fully owned by ICAR to carry out some financial operations in support to the basic functions of ICAR. The basic functions would relate to activities carried out by the ICAR Sub-committees. The President of ICAR is automatically the President of SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l. and the Executive Board of ICAR functions as the Board of SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l.

## 3. ICAR 2001 Balance

Total income for the year 2001 was 256.154 Euros. Total expenses were 208.789 Euros. The positive balance was in the amount of 47.365 Euro.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the ICAR and SERVICE-ICAR S.r.l. budget for 2003.

INSIDE

The provisional budget for ICAR will show total income and total expenses on the same level: 125 000 Euros, while the provisional budget of SERVICE-ICAR plans to have a positive balance of 10 000 Euros.

## 4. Memorandum of Understanding between EAAP and ICAR

During the ICAR Session held in Interlaken the Board, noting a significant increase in the volume and quality of services rendered by EAAP in providing the secretarial support to ICAR, decided to approve a new Memorandum of Understanding between EAAP and ICAR. The New memorandum incorporates an agreement for an annual contribution by ICAR of 80 000 Euros from 1st January 2003.

## 5. Next ICAR Sessions

The 34th ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting would be held for the first time in the African continent, in Sousse (Tunisia), during the last week of May in the year 2004. The programme would include, among other themes, milk recording in small and medium size production systems and certification of performance recording in suckling sheep breeds. The Executive Board has recommended to the ICAR Board for the 35th ICAR session in 2006 to be held in Finland.

The next session of the General Assembly will be held in Paris, France, on 24 May 2003.

## 6. ICAR By-laws

During Interlaken General Assembly the by-laws were approved. The purpose of By-laws was to regulate matters not included into the Statutes, mainly those related to the internal management of the organisation. The approved By-laws, available on the ICAR website refer to:

- Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.
- Rules of Procedure of the ICAR Board.
- Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.
- Terms of Reference of Vice President for Administrative and Legal Matters.
- Terms of Reference of Vice President for Research and Technology.
- Terms of Reference of Treasurer.
- Terms of Reference of Secretary General.
- Terms of Reference of Executive Officer.
- Procedure for Updating and Approval of the International Agreement for Recording Practices and ICAR Guidelines.

## 7. Action against Cornell patent application

The German organisation (ADR) has undertaken a legal action to contest the patent registered at the European Patent Office by the Cornell University Foundation. This action has the support and the solidarity shown by ICAR and by a number of ICAR Member Organisations.
Dr. G. Averdunk was engaged by ADR to co-ordinate the action.

The support has been provided also to the Canadian Member Organisation which is also contesting the patent and which has also provided necessary documentation to other members.

The owner of the patent accused the Canadian Member of ICAR for infringing the patent by using the test day for genetic evaluation. They have put together pertinent documentation showing that the patent was not valid and have submitted a request for the re-examination of the patent a year ago. The decision of the Canadian Patent Office was expected to be published soon.

## 7. New ICAR members

ICAR Board granted full membership to the Directorate General for Livestock Development of the Ministry of Animal Resources of Sudan and to the Department of Animal Science of the University of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. The associate membership was granted to the Agricultural Business and Research Centre, Australia, and to MDC Evaluation Ltd. from England. M. Plavsic for Yugoslavia, A. Abubakr for Sudan, D. Hewitt for MDC, presented the organisations in Interlaken of new members.

## 8. ICAR Board members and auditors

J. Crettenand completed his terms of office as a member of the Board and was replaced by J. Juga who was elected as the new ICAR member from the Finnish Animal Breeding Association. The General Assembly re-elected in the Board, T. Vares, A. Rosati, P. Miller, J.-C. Mocquot, F. Armitage, K. Trivedi and R. Pauw, for new four years term. M. Jeffries was elected President of ICAR for a 2-years mandate.

The eight-year term of office as ICAR Auditor of Dr. N. Ratheiser expired. J. Stoll, Director of the Herdbook, Luxembourg, was elected as his replacement for the post of ICAR Auditor.

## 9. International Performance trials for sheep and goat milk analysis

The Milk Testing Laboratories working group was financially supported to encourage the participation of laboratories in the first two trials planned for October and November 2002 to start the comparative international performance trials for sheep milk and goat milk, as it was the case with cow milk.

## 10. ICAR Guidelines

The document of the International Agreement for Recording Practices, Preamble for Membership and ICAR Guidelines was distributed to member organisations during the ICAR Session at Interlaken and approved by the General Assembly. The document contains mainly the new versions about the following fields: health, identification and genetic evaluation. The purpose of guidelines for health was specifically to support farm management and genetic evaluation for udder health.

The new and updated document was published in March 2003, and will be distributed to the ICAR members by mail. The document will also be placed on the ICAR web site.

# 11. DNA Task Force

The Board proposed that, at the present stage, it would be appropriate to nominate one person as a potential convenor for the Working Group of DNA which would collect information from other Working Groups and ISAG on the state of the art and prepare terms of reference and the programme of work of the future group. A. Rosati was requested to identify a convenor of the Group and to report to the May 2003 meeting of the Board.

# 12. Special Stamp granting

R. Pauw and A. Rosati made an inspection visit to Slovakia to ascertain the implementation of ICAR rules, standards and guidelines in accordance with the ICAR Rules on Special Stamp. The Board agreed to grant the Special Stamp to the State Breeding Institute of the Slovak Republic.

# 13. From the Sub-Committees and Working Groups

## 13.1 Interbull Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee is composed of the following membersJean-Claude Mocquot (Chairman), Jarmo Juga, Brian Van Doormaal, Rex Powell, Hans Wilmink, Robert Poole, Reinhard Reents, Enrico Santus, Dorota Krencik

At present, 25 countries subscribe to the evaluation service, which is performed four times per year operated for the Interbull Centre at University of Upsala. Currently, the service includes three production traits, 18 conformation traits and two udder health traits. Additions during 2002 were conformation trait evaluations for the Brown Swiss and the Guernsey breeds. An exciting development in the coming years is the expansion of the services to incorporate additional functional traits, and a workshop addressing specifically international genetic evaluations for longevity and calving traits was held in March 2003.

The Interbull Open Meeting in 2002 was organised in conjunction with the ICAR meeting in Interlaken, Switzerland. The meeting had 196 participants from 54 different countries attending, which is a record high! The scientific program focussed on estimation of genetic correlation across countries, international genetic evaluations for non-production traits, data quality and validation, and national genetic evaluation developments. Proceedings from the meeting have been published as Interbull Bulletin 29.

Interbull successfully organised a joint symposium with the 7th World Congress of Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP; http://www.wcgalp.org/) in Montpellier, France. The session sponsored by Interbull was organised by Jarmo Juga from Finland and focused on two major topics: “Borderless evaluation based on performance data” and “Balanced breeding for milk yield and functional traits”. Kent Weigel was invited speaker for the first topic and Johann Sölkner for the second topic, and there were 20 oral presentations and 21 posters.

The next Interbull Meeting will be held in Rome, Italy, August 28-30, 2003, in conjunction with the 54th annual meeting of the European Association for Animal Production. The proposed themes for the Open Meeting are “International genetic evaluations of beef and dairy cattle using individual performance records”, “Developments in MACE”, “Data quality and validation methods”, and “Genetic evaluations of functional traits”.

Interbull Bulletins, Newsletters and further details of the work of Interbull can be found on http://www.interbull.org.

## 13.2 Conformation Working Group

Working Group is composed of the following members: David Hewitt (Chairman), David Hambrook, Seppo Niskanen, Jay Shannon, Blaine Crosser, and Ab Groen.

### Current Situation

The World Holstein-Friesian Federation and the World Guernsey Federation currently use the ICAR recommendations as the official International linear type assessment programmes. A presentation on the ICAR recommendations was given to the World Jersey Conference at its June meeting in Denmark, with the intention of persuading the organisation to introduce and endorse a harmonised international linear assessment. Recommendations were also communicated to the Ayrshires encouraging the introduction of ICAR recommendations for the breeds international standard. This is important for international type evaluations through MACE.

The information to assist all organisations is readily available on the ICAR web site.

### Recent recommendations

- 15 standard linear traits remain unaltered.
- No changes to individual trait definitions.
- Encourage all world breed organisations to introduce the standard traits for international type evaluations.
- Essential to establish international standard for linear assessment to produce MACE type evaluations.

### The Future – Additional Trait

To investigate the proposals from the World Holstein Friesian Federation concerning the traits Rear Teats Rear View: The group was not convinced as to its necessity, believing that it should be highly correlated with other mammary traits. The proposal will be discussed with the council of the World Holstein-Friesian Federation.

### Future Agenda

The group had established robust linear inspection definitions and intended to assist the promotion of the traits by producing diagrams that would be accessed via the ICAR web page. The aim is to improve the integrity of administration of data collection, which will cover the following topics:

- The evaluation model
- Methods for publication of proofs
- Composite traits

To assist in the promotion of the recommendations there is the intention to increase the use of practical examples that will be available on the ICAR web page. There is also the intention to produce a training manual with clear recommendations and procedures for classifier training and monitoring in order that information is gathered in a consistent and professional manner.

The development and success of other ICAR working groups is an important feature of the successful introduction of type programmes. To ensure continuity the working group is linked to other ICAR working groups to ensure cross-referencing of recommendations.

### Activities

The group has not met and activities have been limited to email correspondence. Questions have been raised in respect of: establishing a standard biological scale, rather than breed specific; the definition and requirement for the angularity trait; increased use of linear traits in composite values to individual countries economic weighting. The chairman is currently drafting documentation to address these issues and those raised at the last meeting. A set of diagrams describing each trait is being produced to display on the ICAR web page to assist in defining each linear trait. The project will be finalised by the group and presented at the 2004 ICAR meeting for approval.

## International Activity

World Holstein-Friesian Federation have decided to introduce rear teat position as a standard linear trait (subject to the approval of the World Conference 2004). The introduction of the ICAR recommended standard linear traits has progressed well within the Holstein breed, however it is proving difficult for other international breed organisations to fully subscribe to co-operation by recommending the harmonisation of linear traits to each breeds standards. A presentation to the World Jersey Conference in June was very well received; however there appears to be limited progress as to the adoption of the ICAR recommendations on a world scale, however, individual countries are introducing the recommended traits in an uncoordinated manner, which will result in delay in introducing robust international type evaluations.

## Report on International Type Harmonisation

The European Holstein-Friesian Confederation meeting in Poland received a presentation by Gerben de Jong, NRS Geneticist. The presentation examined the progress that had been made in harmonising type traits. The following is an edited summary of the results and demonstrate the progress made in the Holstein breed, which could be achieved by all breeds through the introduction of ICAR standardisation of linear trait harmonisation. There is room for further progress, however the program is producing acceptable results and provides a foundation from which to develop (see Table 1 and 2).

*Table 1. Average of genetic correlation between countries for 18 traits analysed by Interbull. An average is based on the average correlation one country has with all other countries.*

| Trait | Average correlation May 2002 | Average correlation May 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Stature | 0.92 | 0.89 |
| Chest width | 0.79 | 0.76 |
| Body depth | 0.79 | 0.75 |
| Angularity | 0.78 | 0.76 |
| Rump angle | 0.94 | 0.93 |
| Rump width | 0.83 | 0.75 |
| Rear leg set | 0.85 | 0.82 |
| Rear leg rear view | 0.79 | 0.77 |
| Foot angle | 0.68 | 0.57 |
| Fore udder | 0.79 | 0.74 |
| Rear udder height | 0.81 | 0.74 |
| Udder support | 0.80 | 0.77 |
| Udder depth | 0.94 | 0.90 |
| Teat placement | 0.92 | 0.89 |
| Teat length | 0.96 | 0.96 |
| Overall conformation | 0.73 | 0.68 |
| Overall udder | 0.77 | 0.74 |
| Overall feet & legs | 0.67 | 0.60 |

Source: EHFC presentation G de Jong. August 2002.

## 13.3 Lactation Working Group

The Working Group is composed by the following members: Filippo Miglior (CDN, Canada) Chairperson; Vigan Darvishi (Institute de l'Elevage, France); Sander de Roos (NRS, The Netherlands); Zengting Liu (VIT, Germany); Andrea Rosati (LGS, Italy); Larry Schaeffer (University of Guelph, Canada); Paul VanRaden (AIPL – USDA, USA).

*Table 2. Average of genetic correlation between eight countries for 18 traits analysed by Interbull. An average is based on the average correlation one country has with all other countries. The countries have at least 2000 bull in the Interbull genetic evaluation for stature.*

| | NLD | USA | CAN | DEU | FRA | GBR | ITA | DNK | avg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stature | 0.95 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 0.95 |
| Chest width | 0.86 | 0.85 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.84 | 0.90 | 0.88 |
| Body depth | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.81 | 0.82 | 0.71 | 0.84 | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.83 |
| Angularity | 0.85 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.75 | 0.88 | 0.84 | 0.88 | 0.84 |
| Rump angle | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.98 | 0.97 |
| Rump width | 0.84 | 0.85 | 0.87 | 0.86 | 0.65 | 0.87 | 0.86 | 0.88 | 0.84 |
| Rear leg set | 0.89 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.91 | 0.85 | 0.83 | 0.89 | 0.87 | 0.88 |
| Rear leg rear view | 0.87 | 0.82 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.71 | 0.74 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.81 |
| Foot angle | 0.77 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.76 | 0.80 | 0.82 | 0.79 | 0.75 | 0.79 |
| Fore udder | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.74 | 0.90 | 0.87 | 0.91 | 0.87 |
| Rear udder height | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.86 | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.88 | 0.88 |
| Udder support | 0.93 | 0.91 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.88 | 0.89 | 0.91 | 0.92 | 0.91 |
| Udder depth | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.95 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.96 |
| Teat placement | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.97 | 0.95 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 0.91 | 0.96 | 0.94 |
| Teat length | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.97 |
| Average linear traits | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.90 | 0.89 | 0.84 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.90 | |
| Overall conformation | 0.83 | 0.82 | 0.78 | 0.80 | 0.72 | 0.79 | 0.82 | 0.66 | 0.78 |
| Overall udder | 0.85 | 0.88 | 0.86 | 0.85 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.89 | 0.83 | 0.85 |
| Overall feet & legs | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.79 | 0.80 | 0.71 | 0.75 | 0.77 | 0.68 | 0.75 |

Source: EHFC presentation G de Jong. August 2002.

The Working Group has been working on two tasks: a) review and update of current ICAR Guidelines for milk recording; and b) development of guidelines for milk recording from Automated Milking Systems (AMS). Newly investigated methods for lactation calculation has been added to the current guidelines [ISLC (Wilmink, 1987), Best Prediction (VanRaden, 1997) and MTP (Schaeffer and Jamrozik, 1996)]. Also, methods for AM/PM (Liu *et al.*, 2000) recording have been updated.

Regarding robotic milking system four group members have been involved in research on this topic (France, Germany, The Netherlands and Canada), and results from those research were presented at the ICAR meeting in Interlaken. Results from the French project (Bouloc *et al.*, 2002) showed an important effect of daytime, time interval since last milking and lactation stage on milk production and composition. Reducing time test to 12 hours instead of 24 hours seemed possible. Estimation of fat and protein yields and contents was precise enough for genetic and management applications. The German study (Buenger *et al.*, 2002) concluded it was not possible to estimate daily fat content with a satisfying accuracy. The Dutch investigation (Peeters and Galesloot, 2002) has concluded that under specific restrictions (milking interval at least 4 hours, no interrupted milking and correct matching of sample jars with milking) one sampled milking suffices to get a satisfactory estimate for the test day fat yield. In Canada (Lazenby *et al.*, 2002), analysis of the data suggested that the optimal estimate of the milking rate is obtained using the 12 most recent milk weights or the last 4 days, regardless of days in milk or parity of the milked cow. Also, the length of the sampling period for fat and protein could be 14 to 16 hours with loss in accuracy in the range of 0.10 to 0.14 kilogram deviation in absolute 24-hour yield.

The Working Group met during the Interbull-ICAR meetings in Interlaken, Switzerland. The discussion focused on drafting guidelines for milk recording from Automatic Milking Systems (AMS) using results from recent research in the area carried out by group members. The Guidelines were distributed to the ICAR General Assembly and approved. However, research is still in progress in this area and Guidelines will be updated as soon as relevant results are found.

## 13.4 Milk Recording of Sheep Working Group

Members of the Working Group currently are JM. Astruc (France) (chairman), F. Barillet (France), M. Fioretti (Italy), D. Gabina (Spain), E. Gootwine (Israel), A.P. Mavrogenis (Cyprus), F.J. Romberg (Germany), S. Sanna (Italy), E. Stefanake (Greece).

During the last biennial Session in Interlaken (Switzerland), a meeting of the Working Group on Milk Recording of Sheep took place. The agenda focused on 3 topics: (1) future introduction of method E in the guidelines, (2) answers to give to proposals or questions made by some members of the Working Group about the guidelines, (3) perspectives concerning the Working Group.

1) Franz-Josef Romberg from Germany explained the situation of milk recording of sheep in Germany and the use of the method E in his country. Method E is a flexible official method applied when the breeding purpose is to maintain the breed with all the typical standard performance signs (flocks without milk production and/or flocks whose only a part of the ewes belongs to the herd-book). In the first case, the rule of not recording suckling ewes may be not respected. In the second case, the rules of recording all the animals of the flocks may be not respected. Nevertheless, this flexible method must follow a framework of rules (see the minutes of the meeting on the ICAR web-site). It is planned to introduce the method E (E4 = 2 milking, EC and ET = 1 milking) in the guidelines, as soon as possible.
   In 2002, the method D (simplified non-official recording based on 2 to 4 recordings per flock and per year in the aim to get 2 to 3 test-days per ewe in the middle of the lactation) had been introduced in the ICAR guidelines.
   The other usual official methods in milk recording of sheep are A4, A5, A6, AC, AT, B4, B5, B6, BC, BT, C4, C5, C6, CC, CT (see the ICAR Website, part "Recording Guidelines", section 2.2).

2) The Working Group proposed to clarify the terms for milk yield in dairy sheep (given that a suckling period generally, but not always, occurs before the milking only period). Total Milk Yield (TMY) will be used for lactations with milking from lambing, whereas Total Milk Milked (TMM) will be used for lactations with milking only after a suckling period.
   The Working Group decided to harmonize the minimum daily milk yield (which had up to now different assumptions depending on the parts of the guidelines). The minimum daily milk yield in dairy sheep is 200 ml or 200 g.

Perspectives concerning the Working Group:

- update the guidelines (introducing method E, taking into account evolutions wished by the Working Group),
- continue to carry on the biennial survey (including topics related to milk recording and breeding schemes),
- study the different ways of lactation computation in different ICAR countries, taken into account the specificity of the suckling period. It should lead to a proposal of harmonization between countries.

The portion of the ICAR web-site relative to the Working Group on Milk Recording of Sheep includes the minutes of the meeting of the group in Interlaken, as well as the report of the group presented in Interlaken.

## 13.5 Beef Recording Working Group

The Working Group is composed by the following members: Hans Jürgen Schild (LKV Bayern, Germany) Chairperson; Darrh Bullock (University of Kentucky, USA); Clara Díaz (INIA, Spain); Mauro Fioretti (AIA, Italy); Birgit Fürst-Waltl (Universität für Bodenkultur, Austria); Hans-Ulrich Graser (AGBU, Australia); Al Grogan (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Ireland); Mogens Hansen (Landbrugets Radgiveningcenter); Laurent Journaux (Institut de l'Élévage, France);

Charles Michaux (Université de Liège, Belgium); Duncan Pullar (MLC, United Kingdom); Ferenc Szabo (University of Keszthely, Hungary); Japie van der Westhuizen (Centre for Animal Breeding and Genetics ARC, South Africa)

The Beef Recording Working Group currently is drafting a new guideline for beef recording. Based on a synthesis of various national recording guidelines, the new guideline aims to tie up various approaches and to provide a consistent and detailed instruction manual for beef recording that represent the present state of the art in beef recording.

Apart from this, an international survey on beef recording activities was carried out in Spring 2002, which is published on ICAR's web site.

## 13.6 Milking Test Laboratories Working Group

Members of the group are: Olivier Leray (chairman), Ugo Paggi, Christian Baumgartner, George Psathas, Harrie van den Bijgaart, John Rhoads, Des Johnston and Egil Brenne

Last meetings were held on 28 May 2002 during the 33rd Biennial Session of ICAR in Interlaken (Switzerland) (the report is available on the ICAR Website) and on 25 October 2002 in Palencia (Spain) (the report is available at ICAR Secretariat). The next meeting is planned on 19 May 2003, during IDF/ISO/AOAC Analytical Week in Holstebro (Denmark)

The web space dedicated to MTL WG in ICAR web site at the place "Milk laboratories" has been progressively filled in. As large as possible information is provided such as it can become a practical and useful tool to ICAR country laboratories.

### Current activities

Production of documentation, guidelines and protocols: 1) Guidelines for Quality Assurance in DHI Analysis: They are to be used by ICAR organisation. The last update can be downloaded from ICAR web site. 2) Protocol for the evaluation of milk analysers and official approval by ICAR. The document was circulated to ICAR member organisations. Replies were presented and discussed at the last meeting in Palencia. The field of application will be complemented with an explanatory note (document devoted to milk analyser to be used in laboratories) and cautions with regards to approval extension following instrumental upgrades. The document is available for consultation on ICAR web site. The document was approved by 16 ICAR organisations of 12 countries in its entirety and by 1 organisation with amendments proposed (no disapproval).

### Information to ICAR

Questionnaire of milk testing laboratories situation within ICAR: 1) Answers to a questionnaire on analytical quality assurance in milk recording laboratories were processed. A summary of major findings was presented in Interlaken (May 2002). The PowerPoint presentation has been included into the report of MTL WG meeting of Interlaken and can be consulted with the report on ICAR web site. 2) MTL WG in on-farm/on-line milk recording analysis. A communication about the implication of on-farm/on-line milk recording analysis for Analytical Quality Assurance and Quality Control analysis was made during Technical Sessions of Interlaken. The working group will keep attentive to upcoming developments in this field.

### Harmonisation of analytical methods and practices within ICAR countries

- *Standardisation*: Members of MTL WG will participate as experts in IDF/ISO/AOAC Analytical Week in Holstebro in Denmark (May 19-22, 2003). Items of interest are updates and revisions of standardised analytical methodology for determination of fat, protein, lactose, SCC, urea, and casein in milk and Analytical Quality Assurance. New developments are focused on sheep and goat milk analysis (fat, protein and SCC).
- *International hDHI Reference Laboratory Network*: Composition: at the present time, 37 laboratories have been nominated by 31 National Committees. In 2002, the network extended its interest to sheep and goat milk analysis. At the present time, there are

11 members designated as reference laboratory for sheep milk and 12 for goat milk in addition to their former reference status for cow. The list of members was updated and circulated in December 2002 to Network members and National Committees. Nowadays update frequency is twice per year. The list is available on the ICAR web site. A first meeting of the network participants was organised on 27th of May 2002 during the 33rd Biennial Session of ICAR in Interlaken. It was the occasion of various technical presentations (workshop) and provided fruitful discussions. A report was produced from minutes and PowerPoint presentations. It is available on the ICAR web site.
A survey of members was carried out through a questionnaire and a summary of replies is currently in progress.

- *ICAR International Interlaboratory Studies for 2002:* 1) Cow milk analysis: two series of trials were carried out in March and September 2002, (criteria concerned remain fat, protein, lactose, urea and somatic cell counting in milk). They were organised by the French association CECALAIT. 2) Sheep and goat milk analysis: The year 2002 was characterised by the organisation of first interlaboratory studies for sheep and goat milk analysis in Autumn. Schemes were similar as for cow milk with regard to criteria, general organisation and data treatment (CECALAIT's model was followed). The organiser was AIA-LSL (Maccarese-Roma, Italy).
- *ICAR International Interlaboratory Studies for 2003*: The yearly information letter was dispatched in December 2002 with the annual announcement for interlaboratory proficiency study programmes of 2003 for the three species cow, sheep and goat. There will be no changes in the organisation excepted adjustments for dates. The annual letter is available on ICAR web site and can be used for registration to trials.
- *Harmonisation of bottles, racks and containers for milk sample handling:* Discussion for such a harmonisation has been initiated by milk recording organisations in Northern Europe. ICAR was felt the appropriate body to deal with that subject jointly in Sub-Committee Meters and Jars and Milk Test Laboratories Working group. A provision of information on ICAR situation was carried out through a questionnaire and yet a summary of replies has been produced.

## 14. 34th ICAR Session in Sousse, Tunisia

Next 34th ICAR Session and INTERBULL Meeting will be held in Sousse, Tunisia from 28 May to 4 June 2004. More information on this meeting will be available soon on ICAR web-site at: www.icar.org/tunisia2004/index.htm

## 15. Short News

- The trademarks and logos of ICAR and INTERBULL are going to be registered and protected in major areas of the world.
- At the Interlaken, in May 2002, there were 359 persons from 59 countries registered as participants of the ICAR Session. Delegates of 42 Member Organisations (from 37 countries) were present. There also were 196 participants from 54 different countries to the Interbull Meeting.
- J. C. Mocquot was re-appointed as Chairman of the INTERBULL Steering Committee and R. Poole (Australia) replaced M. Jeffries as member.
- The Board endorsed the nomination of U. Lauritsen (Denmark) as a new member of the Sub-Committee Meters and Jars.

# 16. List of approved milk-meters (at October 2002).

| Meter | Manufacturer |
|---|---|
| Afiflo 2000 | SAE Afikim Israel |
| Afiflo 9000 | SAE Afikim Israel |
| Afikim (Fullflow) | SAE Afikim Israel |
| Bou-Matic Perfection 3000 | Bou-Matic USA |
| Dairy-Manager | Surge Babson Bros Co. USA |
| Dairy Master Weighall | E.P. Harty and Co.Ltd Ireland |
| Favorit International | Agro-Vertriebsgesellschaft GmbH, Germany |
| Flomaster 2000 / Alpro Flomaster Pro | DeLaval AB Sweden |
| Free-Flow | SCR Engineers Ltd. Israel |
| JM 100 | DeLaval AB Sweden |
| Lactocorder | Werkzeug- und Maschinenbau Berneck AG., Switzerland |
| Level Milk Meter | Nedap Agri BV. The Netherlands |
| Manuflow 2 and Manuflow 21 | AB Manus Sweden |
| Meltec (Memolac 2) | Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany (Nedap Agri BV. The Netherlands) |
| Metatron | Westfalia Separator Ag. Germany |
| Milko-Scope MKII | DeLaval AB, Sweden |
| MR 2000 (Combina 2000) | Gascoigne Melotte. The Netherlands |
| Pulsameter 2 | Labor-und Messgeräte GmbH Germany |
| Tru-Test Auto sampler | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Tru-Test F | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Tru-Test HI | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Tru-Test WB Ezi-Test | Tru-test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Tru-Test HI Fast Empty | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Tru-Test WB | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |
| Waikato MK5 | Inter Ag, New Zealand |

# 17. List of provisionally approved milk-meters (at October 2002)

| Meter | Manufacturer |
|---|---|
| Bou-Matic M+ | Bou-Matic Dairy Equipment Division of DEC International USA |
| Afi-Lite | SAE Afikim Israel |
| Shuttle Device (Sampler for automathic milking system) | Lely Industries , The Netherlands |
| Tru-Test Electronic Milk Meter | Tru-Test Ltd. New Zealand |

# 18. Provisional list of approved Jars (at March 2003)

| Manufacturer | Model |
|---|---|
| DeLaval Agri AB, Sweden | Model 8300719-07 |
| DeLaval Agri AB, Sweden | Model 8301064-01 |
| DeLaval Agri AB, Sweden | Model 8301064-02 |
| Germania | AccuWeigh Computerized Milk Recording System |
| Milkrite | |
| Surge | Model 25177 Kimax or Pyrex |
| Surge | Model 25799 Kimax or Pyrex |
| Westfalia Systemat | Model 7009-2862-220 |

The ICAR Sub-Committee Meters and Jars is preparing a list of jars having ICAR approval for use of official milk recordings. The models listed in this page were considered following information sent by Recording Organizations that are ICAR members. Consider it as a provisional list. If you wish to send to the Sub-Committee advises or information able to improve the presented list, please send relevant information to:
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Please let us know what you would like to be covered in future issues of the Newsletter or suggestions to improve its content.