



# ICAR Newsletter

# December 2009

International Committee  
for Animal Recording



Via G. Tomassetti 3, 1/A  
00161 Rome, Italy

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Contact info:  
ICAR Secretariat  
Via Giuseppe Tomassetti 3, 1/A  
00161 Rome, Italy  
E-mail: [icar@icar.org](mailto:icar@icar.org)



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

ICAR Members and members of governing bodies, Sub-Committees and Working Groups can be proud of their achievements and results attained during the year 2009. The number of ICAR Members grew by four new organizations, thus bringing the total number Members to 83. New ICAR Guidelines approved by consensus of all Members at the Niagara Falls General Assembly were published and placed on the ICAR web site. To-date, the PDF file has been downloaded from the web around 17,500 times. Guidelines for on-line milk analysis are in the final stage of preparation and will be submitted for approval in the first half of 2010. The Developing Countries Working Group is finalizing the guidelines for animal identification and recording in low to medium input animal production systems. INTERBULL Sub-Committee decided to start the first research run for the use of genomic data in evaluation of bulls. ICAR Sub-Committees for Identification and for Recording Devices approved 43 identification and 1 recording device. ICAR's procedure for testing of identification of animal devices has become an ISO standard thus further strengthening ICAR's position as Registration Authority of ISO for animal identification electronic devices. The ICAR Board accorded the Certificate of Quality to twenty Members. These, and many other achievements were obtained by the hard work and voluntary contribution of experts and professionals employed by ICAR Members, thus fully justifying the scope of ICAR: working together to help each other in providing better services to our clients and end-users.

This fourth issue of the ICAR Newsletter confirms the commitment of the Board to provide Members with up-to date information on ICAR activities. The presentation of activities that will be undertaken in the year 2010 includes also an invitation to representatives of our Members and professional involved in ICAR activities to send their contributions and views on proposals developed by the Executive Board.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings and best wishes for successful 2010 to all our Members, their employees and clients.

## 37TH ICAR BIENNIAL SESSION, RIGA, LATVIA

### Call for papers for the ICAR Session

the Biennial meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to participants to share the experience in the various areas of animal production and strengthen the links between producers and specific sector of the industry which supports their work.

During the Session, a number of specialised Workshops are also scheduled in order to broaden the common experience and concentrate the exchange of similar experiences in specialised areas. These are:

- Use of molecular genomic tools in animal breeding.
- Manufacturers Showcase.
- HI technology and interaction with genetic evaluation.



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For this 2010 Biennial Session, two publications are expected:

The "Book of Abstracts" that will be distributed to participants before the meeting in a rough binding which will help them in joining to the session with a general overview of the speeches and presentations; and

The "Book of Proceedings" produced after the meeting that will be refereed by the Chairmen of the Sessions. The "Book of Proceedings" will be available only in digital form for downloading from the ICAR website

**Call for Abstracts is now open and files proposed for theatre presentation can be submitted by e-mail to [riga@icar.org](mailto:riga@icar.org) (Deadline 20 Feb. 2010)**

All the Presentations, Abstracts and Manuscripts must be submitted in English.

The proposed Abstract must contain the following information:

- Title of the presentation.
- Name of the Author(s) and name of their institution/organisation.
- A short abstract of the presentation, not longer than 20 lines using Verdana 10pt.
- The proposed session (number of the Session and its Chairman) in which the manuscript best fits.

Files which do not comply with all the above requirements will not be taken into consideration.

Deadline for submission is 20 February 2010 and the Authors will be informed by 15 April about the acceptance or rejection of their proposal.

### BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

By 30th April the final Abstract of the manuscript (one page max.) must be submitted by e-mail to the Latvian Organising Committee ([erna.galvanovska@ldc.gov.lv](mailto:erna.galvanovska@ldc.gov.lv) and [evija.skujina@ldc.gov.lv](mailto:evija.skujina@ldc.gov.lv)) using the: "Abstract Model" available at [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/abstract\\_model.dot](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/abstract_model.dot) and following the "Instructions" contained in the PDF file available at: [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/instructions\\_for\\_abstract\\_submission.pdf](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/instructions_for_abstract_submission.pdf)

### BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

By 30 July the final manuscript must be submitted to [riga@icar.org](mailto:riga@icar.org) using the: "Manuscript Model" (available at: [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/manuscript\\_model.dot](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/manuscript_model.dot)) indicating the number of session and its Chairman from the programme, following the "Instructions" as reported in the PDF file available at [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/instructions\\_for\\_paper\\_submission.pdf](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/doc/instructions_for_paper_submission.pdf) and respecting the general rules available in the official website at: [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/en/id4.php](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/en/id4.php).

For any enquiry, please do not hesitate in contacting the Local Organising Committee ([evija.skujina@ldc.gov.lv](mailto:evija.skujina@ldc.gov.lv)) or ICAR Secretariat at: [riga@icar.org](mailto:riga@icar.org).

### Preliminary Programme

The Program of the 37th ICAR Session to be held in Riga, Latvia, 31 May to 04 June 2010 is now available on the web site at: [www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/en/id3\\_1.php](http://www.ldc.gov.lv/icar2010/en/id3_1.php)



Themes include a number of topics related to new developments in animal identification, recording and evaluation, such as use of genomic tools in animal breeding, improving health and fertility in dairy cattle, AI technology and interaction with genetic evaluation, breeding technologies.

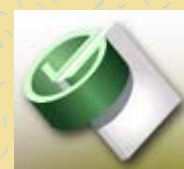
### World Breed Federation; meeting in Riga

On the occasion of the ICAR session, representatives of world breed federations will meet in Riga to discuss matters of joint interest and opportunities for the use of the work carried out by ICAR in the implementation of their objects as well as for better coordination of their programs with those of ICAR.

### CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

On the basis of reports submitted by ICAR auditors, the Board accorded the ICAR Certificate of Quality to the following Members:

- Estonian Animal Recording Centre for identification system for dairy cattle, production recording of dairy cattle and genetic evaluation.
- Deutscher Verband für Leistungs- und Qualitätsprüfungen e.V. (DLQ), Germany for identification system and production recording of dairy cattle, sample transport, laboratory analysis, data processing and sample transport.
- Agricultural Data Centre, Latvia, for identification system and production recording of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats, and genetic evaluation.
- VIT w.V., Germany, for genetic evaluation for dairy cattle.
- CONVIS, Luxembourg, for identification system for dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats; recording production of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats; laboratory analysis, data processing and cattle genetic evaluation.
- ZAR - Zentrale Arbeitsgemeinschaft österreichischer Rinderzüchter (LKV-Ausschuss), for recording production of dairy and beef cattle.
- Laboratorium Oceny Mleka KCHZ Laboratorium Referencyjne z/s w Parzniewie, Poland, for reference laboratory;



## APPROVAL OF A NEW RECORDING DEVICE

### Milk meters

The ICAR Board approved the recording device MWS manufactured by Lely Industries for the use in cow milk recording.

### Animal identification devices

During 2009, 43 new devices for animal identification have been approved of which:

- 21 tag.
- 11 bolus.
- 8 inject.
- 3 tag attachment.

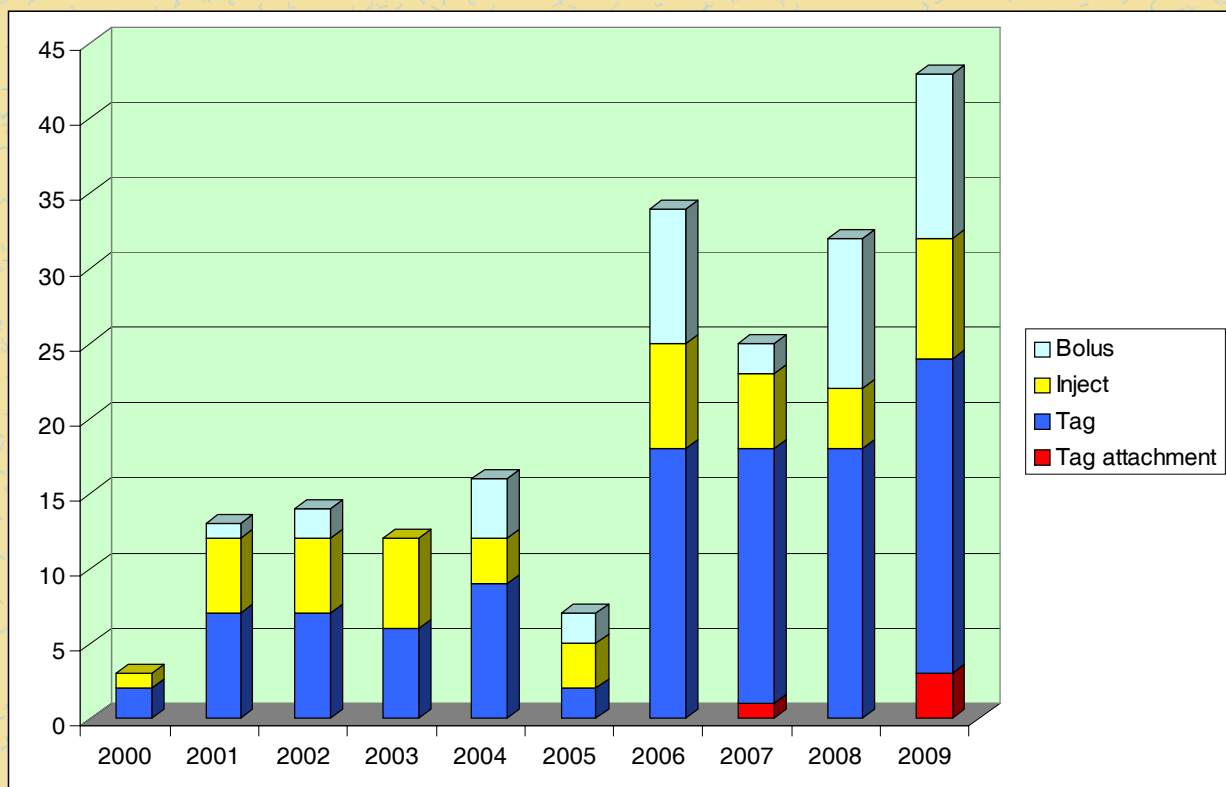


Figure 1. Transponders approved by ICAR from 2001 to 2009.



## **NEW MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES**

The ICAR Board nominated new members of Committees for Identification and for Recording Devices, namely:

- Clement Allain (France) was nominated a new member of the Sub-Committee for Recording Devices to replace Alain Gastebled (France).
- Andrew Fear (New Zealand) be nominated a new member of the Sub-Committee for Recording Devices.
- Erik Rehben, France, was nominated a new member of the Identification Sub-Committee for Animal Identification to replace Ms. Louise Marguin, France.

The Board expressed its appreciation for contribution of outgoing members to the work of respective Sub-Committees.

## **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

### **Accreditation of laboratories for genetic evaluation**

In view of the interest of some laboratories involved in human genetic evaluation to start the use of SNP chips for genetic evaluation analysis of dairy and beef cattle, the ICAR Secretariat will explore the current status of accreditation procedures of these laboratories and evaluate the need for additional quality control systems propose measures that may be undertaken by ICAR.

### **Animal health traits – new field of animal recording**

Animal health affects productivity, fertility and longevity of farm animals as well as quality of animal products. In view of economic importance of health traits, the Board will consider the need to expand the terms of reference of the Working Group on Recording, Evaluation and Genetic Improvement of Functional Traits of Cattle to include recording of health traits.

### **Sub-Committee for Recording Devices**

The Sub-Committee for Recording Devices invited manufacturers and ICAR Test Centre directors to a planning meeting on professional and business issues related to sampling in robotic milking systems in early December. A follow-up seminar will now be held on March 1, 2010 in Toronto to reach conclusions and recommendations raised at December meeting regarding robotic sampling.

### **Statutes and by-laws review**

The ICAR legal documents - the ICAR Statutes, the International Agreement on Identification, Recording and Evaluation of farm Animals and ICAR By-laws regulate objects and functions of the Organization. They are approved, changed and amended by Ordinary (International Agreement and By-laws) and Extraordinary General Assembly (Statutes).

Changes and amendments approved in the last decade reflected necessary adjustments to the dynamic developments in science and technology and changes in the social and economic environment in which ICAR and its members operate. Adjustments of legal documents were managed with care for the stability of the legal framework of the Organization.

The Secretariat is preparing proposals for revision of By-laws on procedure of the General Assembly and on the approval of the ICAR guidelines. The proposal are expected to include the classification of the role of the General Assembly and the Board to ensure efficient business operations.

### **ICAR Forum - A tool for improved communication**

The broader and more intensive use of the ICAR forum ([www.service-icar.com/forum](http://www.service-icar.com/forum)) could contribute to the improved communication and between ICAR bodies and ICAR Members as well as among Members themselves. It could be an efficient tool in reviewing of current issues and the state of the ICAR activities.

The ICAR Secretariat welcomes suggestions and contributions from readers of ICAR Newsletter on how to improve and better use this tool.

### **SECRETARIAT'S CONTACTS**

- Frank Armitage; [frank@icar.org](mailto:frank@icar.org)
- Elena Couto; [elena@icar.org](mailto:elena@icar.org)
- Juhani Maki-Hokkonen; [jussi@icar.org](mailto:jussi@icar.org)
- Andrea Rosati; [rosati@icar.org](mailto:rosati@icar.org)
- Milan Zjalic; [milan@icar.org](mailto:milan@icar.org)