



ICAR Newsletter

May 2011

**International Committee
for Animal Recording**



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BOURG-EN-BRESSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP - ALL IS READY TO MAKE IT A GREAT SUCCESS

Preparations for the General Assembly and the Technical Workshop on new technologies and new challenges for breeding and herd management are well advanced: the ICAR Secretariat has prepared all necessary documents for the General Assembly, chairpersons of a number of Sub-Committees and Working Groups have convened meetings and consultations on past and new activities, discussion papers and presentations on new technologies in animal recording, phenotyping of complex traits, new genomic tools and developments in milk analysis are about to be completed. The attendance of managers of ICAR Members promises vivid exchange of experience in discussion on new approaches to management activities. Our hosts - France genetique elevage – have prepared an excellent social programme in addition to interesting study tours a visit to cattle show.

Registration of participants has started in April 2011 and up to the first week in May, over 200 participants have already registered. Are you among them? If not, register now: www.icar2011.fr

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ICAR

The Executive Board of ICAR held its meeting in Guelph, Canada, at premises of CanWest on 2nd March, 2011. Agenda of the meeting included preparations of the General Assembly and the Technical Workshop to be held on 22/24 June 2011 in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, a review of activities of Sub-Committees and Working Groups and of the financial position of the Association. The meeting



*Picture taken at the last ICAR Executive Board held in Guelph, Canada.
From the left: Daniel Abernethy, Jay Mattison, Uffe Lauritsen, Andrea Rosati, Elena Couto,
Pierre-Louis Gastinel and Reinhard Reeents.*

received the report of the Secretary General on activities in the period November 2010 – February 2011 and approved the programme of future activities.

NEWS FROM ICAR SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Sub-Committee for Animal Identification

Information on approved identification devices available on web page

Since 1995 the ICAR has carried out approval tests on RFID devices and since 2007 ICAR does the testing as ISO (ISO TC23\SC19\WG3 identification) registration authority for granting (shared and unshared) manufacturer codes and product codes related to animal identification. At the moment more than 50 manufacturers have received an unshared manufacturer code, more than 60 manufacturers have received a shared manufacturer code and more than 300 product codes have been granted. The information on all approved products since 1995 is available on the ICAR webpage without knowing if the product is still manufactured or in the market in use:

www.service-icar.com/manufacturer_codes/Manufacturers_DB/manufacturer_codes_main.asp

New service: Information on available products

On the request of user groups ICAR has, after consulting the convener of ISO TC23\SC19\WG3 'IDENTIFICATION', decided to make an additional Service-ICAR webpage indicating only products that are still in the market. ICAR will continue to update the old 'approved products' webpage as it has been done since November 1995, no information will be changed or removed, unless requested by a manufacturer of a product or at withdrawal of a product code.

The information on the new 'Available products' webpage will be based on information provided by manufacturers themselves. Regularly (e.g. every two years) Service-ICAR will send a reminder to each manufacturer with a (shared) manufacturer code with the request to update the 'Available products' webpage. Only products indicated by the manufacturers and products approved after starting the new 'Available products' webpage will be listed. The new webpage will be available free of charge.

Participation at the FAO Training Seminar on Animal Identification

FAO - Maghreb training seminar on animal identification and traceability in Arab Maghreb countries was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, 19-23 April 2011. Eric Rehben, Chairman of the ICAR Working Group on Animal Data, and Jussi Maki-Hokkonen, Technical Officer of Service-ICAR, attended the meeting and gave lectures on use of animal traceability for performance recording, critical points for the implementation of animal traceability (Eric Rehben) and on identification devices, testing and validation (Juhani Maki-Hokkonen). The participants were decision makers from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. The workshop was one of similar activities initiated and organized by Badi

Besbes, Senior Animal Production Officer in FAO and chairman of the ICAR Task Force Developing Countries. The workshop contributed both to the implementation of ICAR mission and of the program of the TF Developing Countries and to strengthening cooperation with FAO.

Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Recording Devices

The ICAR Sub-Committee for Recording devices met in Israel at the Vered Hagalil Hotel at Sea of Galilee on 05 April 2011. The Sub-Committee reviewed the status of the Section 11 of the current Guidelines and requested the Secretariat to update it in accordance with the approved amendments. The meeting also discussed the situation of on-going tests of eleven new devices and of several projects undertaken by the Sub-Committee. The visit to the country was hosted by two device manufacturers (Afikim and SCR) and the Israeli Cattle Breeders Association (ICBA). The production site and offices of the three hosts were visited over two intensive days. During visits to farms the hosts presented the latest achievements in herd management and recording. Members of the Sub-Committee expressed their appreciation for the wealth of information and warm hospitality received everywhere.

Projects of the Sub-Committee for Recording Devices

- **Automatic Milking System Standardisation** started less than a year ago with the objectives to develop standardised sampling device and protocol for sampling in AMS agreeable to all manufacturers. Two draft standardised protocols for sampling in AMS have been developed so far and it is expected that the draft guideline could be ready by Summer 2011. In view of the fact that the data dictionary work in this project has large overlap with Automatic Data Recording group's work under Erik Rehben so it was decided to move this part of the project to that group. Details will be discussed in Bourg-en Bresse Summer in June 2011.
- **DataCal project** has the objective to develop guideline and parameters for use of data from electronic meters to validate meter accuracy. The beneficiaries would be manufacturers, farmers and MO technicians to use compliant software to determine electronic meter accuracy. Clement Allain updated the group on the different applications that are currently in the field. The project aims at having the draft guideline ready by end 2011.

Software for approved milk meters

The Executive Board at its meeting held in Guelph, Canada, on March 2011 discussed the standardised calibration and validation of annual check on approved milk meters. It took note of the view of the Sub-Committee for Recording Devices regarding the need for an update of the Guidelines and on the on-going work aimed at simplifying the procedure for calibration and validation. The Sub-Committee undertook a preparation of an appropriate software to facilitate on- farm calibration procedure.

INTERBULL

Technical Workshop Establishing the Framework for International Genomic Evaluations

A total of 84 representatives from 25 countries gathered on 27 and 28 February 2011 at the Delta Hotel and Conference Center, in Guelph, Canada, to participate in the Interbull technical workshop. The program was structured to have an initial warm-up session, where the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee presented their views for the future of international genetic evaluations in the era of genomics. The next session consisted of reports on the latest developments on the Intergenomics project, the GEBV test and GMACE. Then the participants were divided into six discussion groups that addressed important questions surrounding genomic evaluations: validation of GEBVs, genomic reliabilities, imputation and the various SNP panels, use of MACE results of input for genomic evaluations and consequences of moving away from progeny testing. In the second day an important panel took place to discuss different experiences and views about establishing common repositories of genotypic data and the respective role of Interbull. Last, but not least, presentations on future developments for Interbull and also a few spontaneous presentations ended the event. As usual in Interbull events, both the Interbull Technical Committee and the Interbull Steering Committee had their ordinary meetings after the workshop. For more details, browse the site www.interbull.org

Reorganisation of the WG Lactation Calculation Method

In view of the fact that the activity of this WG has changed during the last years and the goals are now different and that at the moment the WG just update milk recording records, the Executive Board at its last meeting proposed the reorganization of the Working Group Lactation Calculation Methods. Updated Terms of Reference should focus on methods of cow milk recording and on developing guidelines and standards. The name of the WG needs to be changed into Working Group on Cow Milk Recording. F. Miglior agreed to support the renewal of the WG and to continue as chairman/convenor. Members of ICAR are invited to nominate members of the new Working Group.

Working Group on Goat Milk Recording

The Group has prepared an on-line survey on goat milk recording on the basis of experiences of the similar projects applied for collection of information on cow and sheep milk recording. The next meeting of the Group to be held in Bourg-en-Bresse in June 2011 will discuss the proposal for expansion of the Terms of Reference of the WG so as to include goat meat recording.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Andrea Rosati, Secretary General of ICAR, attended meeting of COPA-COGECA held in Brussels on 4 April 2011. The meeting reviewed new proposals related to animal identification to be presented to the Commission for approval.

At a conference on development of cattle production in Kazakhstan, held in Astana 21-23 April 2011, A. Rosati presented programs and activities of ICAR. In his presentation, he underlined the benefits of animal identification, recording and evaluation in attainment of strategic objectives aimed at increasing local dairy production. He visited Ministry of Agriculture and was received by the Minister.



*Picture taken in Astana (Kazakhstan) where A. Rosati presented ICAR programmes and activities.
From the left: S. Poudzhyukas, A. Rosati, S. Rensing and X. David*

ICAR on-line surveys on cow, sheep and goat milk recording

ICAR secretariat reminded all ICAR Members to submit to the on-line databases the recording data for cow, sheep and goat milk recording. These databases, updated with national data for the year 2010, will be soon available. The surveys are available at the following URLs:

- For cows: www.waap.it/enquiry
- For sheep: www.waap.it/sheep_enquiry
- For goats: www.waap.it/goat_enquiry

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Joint Session with the International Dairy Federation

During the meeting of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) meeting to be held in Parma, Italy, from 15 to 19 October 2011 and a joint session on Milk Analysis will be organised with the participation of the Sub-Committee on Milk Analysis members.

FAO – ICAR Workshop in South America

The FAO - ICAR Workshop on animal identification will be held in the second part of the year in Santiago, Chile. Decision makers and representatives of producers and breeders associations from South American countries will be invited to participate. A three-day workshop will terminate by a joint session with FEPALE – a regional organization of milk producers.

SECRETARIAT'S CONTACTS

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